

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Coal miner sentenced
on frame-up charges

— PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 58/NO. 34 OCTOBER 3, 1994

Iowa prison officials reject framed unionist's appeal

BY JOHN STUDER

DES MOINES, Iowa — Ron Welder, a representative of the warden's office at the Iowa State Penitentiary, rejected the appeal of political activist Mark Curtis on September 16. Curtis was seeking to overturn his conviction on a charge of assaulting another inmate, as well as the severe sentence of one month in the "hole" and one year in lockup.

As soon as his appeal was denied, Curtis began serving the first part of his sentence in the hole. He has already filed a request for another hearing. The warden's office has 15 days to respond. If the appeal is rejected again, Curtis will appeal to Sally Chandler Halford, director of the Iowa Department of Corrections.

Curtis is a long-time union and political activist. He was arrested, brutally beaten, Continued on page 6

S. Africa: millions fight against legacy of apartheid

BY GREG ROSENBERG

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Millions of working people here are using the expanded political space that has opened since the democratic elections in April marking the final burial of apartheid. They are fighting to implement the demands advanced by African National Congress president Nelson Mandela, to bring about the ANC's goal of a democratic, nonracial, nonsexist nation.

In the third week of September, protests by thousands of working people spread throughout the townships lying to the southwest of this city. Residents demanded better housing, lower rent, fixed electricity and services rates, better education, and an Continued on page 14

U.S. out of Haiti!

Open border to Haitian refugees! U.S. out of Guantánamo!

Now is the time for class conscious workers, farmers, and youth to tell the truth about Washington's imperialist takeover of Haiti.

Editorial

Now is the time to organize public protests demanding U.S. troops get out of Haiti and asylum for all Haitian refugees!

Washington pretends that its military intervention in Haiti will help return democracy to one of the

Continued on page 14

Haitian military beats protesters as U.S. troops watch

"Haiti's dictators, led by Gen. Raoul Cédras, control the most violent regime in our hemisphere.... Cédras and his armed thugs have conducted a reign of terror, executing children, raping women, killing priests." — U.S. president Bill Clinton, September 15

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Only a few days after making that statement, Clinton ordered some 15,000 U.S. soldiers into Haiti to occupy the country and maintain in power, at least temporarily, the very killers he had earlier denounced. "Our troops are working with full cooperation with the Haitian military," Clinton said after U.S. Marines landed in



First contingent of U.S. troops aboard Blackhawk helicopters invade Haiti, September 19.

Port-au-Prince September 19. "We should recognize that we are in a much stronger and safer position to achieve our goals in Haiti."

Encouraged by Washington's stance, the Haitian military police went into action against crowds of Haitians who came out into the streets to greet the U.S. troops and demand the return of exiled president Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The cops and paramilitary gangs tied to the Haitian military thrashed into crowds, beating people at will. At least one Haitian street vendor was clubbed to death as U.S.

soldiers looked on. A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy stated bluntly that the U.S. military was adhering to a "non-engagement in Haitian-on-Haitian violence" policy.

"We see the U.S. Army and what do they do for us?" William Nicolas, an Aristide supporter, told the *New York Times* in Port-au-Prince. "They go and shake the hand of Cédras and kiss his ring."

In a White House press briefing September 20, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. John Shalikashvili, said that with Continued on page 8

Guantánamo: U.S. provocations mount

BY LAURA GARZA AND MARTÍN KOPPEL

GUANTÁNAMO, Cuba — A giant C-5 military transport plane comes in to land at one of two airstrips at the U.S. naval base that occupies a piece of Cuban territory here. From a post on the Cuban side overlooking the U.S. base, on the morning of September 16, another plane can be seen arriving within several minutes. Shortly afterward another departs.

The guards who belong to Cuba's Brigada Fronteriza — the Border Brigade — report increased movement of ships and planes at the base in the past week. This activity, they are certain, is connected with the imminent invasion of Haiti. A large military hospital ship is docked in the bay — a recent arrival, they note.

The U.S. military intervention in Haiti has raised the potential for provocative action by Washington against Cuba, and the tension level has risen, since the base is more and more a part of the U.S. operation. Haiti's coast is so close it is visible from the eastern tip of Cuba.

In interviews, many working people here pointed out the danger of a massive U.S. military operation being mounted so close to Cuba. They also expressed anger at the invasion of the poorest country in the hemisphere by a government that has al-



Cuban guard post at Guantánamo after being fired on by U.S. troops in 1989. Provocations are numerous now.

ways defended the rich and aided the military in Haiti.

Security on the Cuban side of the base perimeter, already in high gear with the Continued on page 9

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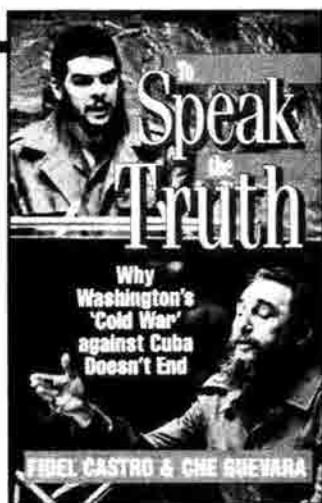
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Soo Line workers discuss results of strike — page 11

Auto workers strike in Brazil

Brazil's auto workers went on strike September 12 for an immediate pay raise and to protest a government-imposed wage freeze. The work stoppage brought the industry to a near standstill and caused the lost production of 18,000 vehicles. A tentative deal may be reached as a result of a government decision to withdraw from negotiations. The government said it would not stand in the way of a pay raise as long as the increase did not result in higher car prices.

The unions are calling for monthly salary increases to make up for loss of buying power due to inflation. The unions also stated that a 1992 agreement with the government and the automakers guarantees monthly pay increases. The government has ruled that wage increases can only be granted once a year.

Strike called in India

A general strike was called by the chief minister of the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, Mulayam Singh Yadav, September 12. Yadav was elected last fall as the head of a lower-caste alliance of parties. His stated policy is to advance the interests of lower-caste Indians.

Yadav has sought to implement India's job reservation laws, which reserve up to 50 percent of public-sector jobs and enrollments at many colleges for members of lower castes. Opposition to Yadav's efforts exists primarily in the northern part of the state, which is 74 percent upper caste.

Japanese unions oppose drug test

The Osaka-based General Union in Japan, which represents some 500 teachers, is calling for protest action over a drug testing plan of employees at the Nova chain of English schools. Nova employs nearly 3,100 staff members, including 2,000 immigrant workers. The test was originally aimed at victimizing foreign-born workers, but was later broadened to include all Japanese employees. A company spokesperson said that while the test would not be mandatory, employees who could not prove their innocence would be dismissed. "This is the most blatant attack on foreign-language teachers I've ever known," said Simon Cole, general secretary of the General Union.



Workers stacking hay at a collective farm in Russia. Capitalist market reforms have driven 70 percent of private farmers into bankruptcy this year. Thirty percent of all farmers will be bankrupt by the end of 1994.

Beijing imposes fees on migrants

Municipal authorities in Beijing announced recently that companies doing business in China's capital city would be charged \$11,600 for each worker hired to live in the city. The companies may also ask that the employees pay the fees themselves, an amount more than 20 times the average annual income in China.

The regulations are aimed at stemming the fast-rising migrant population, according to the city's finance bureau. This also puts pressure on companies to hire local workers instead of looking for cheaper labor from the countryside.

Warsaw signs pact on debt

The Polish government signed an agreement with imperialist banks to reduce its debt in hopes of attracting more investments. Foreign investment had decreased due to an easing of privatization of state-owned industries by the government. Annual inflation is 33 percent and foreign trade is running at a deficit.

Debt-service payments will start at \$375

million and rise gradually, forcing a tighter budget. This means declining health services, schools, and other social programs for working people. Poland was the fourth largest debtor nation among developing countries.

Bosnian Serbs ignore deadline

A spokesperson for Bosnian Serb forces said the Serbs would reject the October 15 deadline for acceptance of a so-called peace plan set by the Clinton administration. The Serbs object to ceding a third of the land they occupy as demanded by the proposal. While Washington says it will push to end the arms embargo against the Bosnian government if the Serbs do not accept the plan, Russia, France, and Britain are opposed to this course of action.

Former British miners worse off

A survey found that 89 percent of former British miners are worse off than when they worked in the coal industry. Less than half of laid-off miners have found jobs and those working outside the industry have taken a pay cut of more than 70 pounds (\$109) a week.

Embargo to stay on Iraq

The United Nations Security Council voted September 14 to maintain its 4-year-old economic embargo against Iraq. The governments of France, Russia, and China favor the oil embargo being lifted in the near future, while Washington and London seek to add more conditions. Meanwhile working people and especially children continue to suffer from the devastating effects of the sanctions.

Settlers oppose leaving Golan

A few dozen Jewish settlers have begun hunger strikes to protest a possible agreement by the Israeli government to with-

draw from the Golan Heights. The area was captured from Syria along with other territory seized from Egypt and Jordan in the U.S.-backed Israeli war against those countries in 1967. Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin said there may be slight withdrawals although nothing has been decided.

An opinion poll commissioned by Israeli Radio in early September showed that 27 percent of Israelis support the Syrian demand that Israel pull out of the region completely. The poll also indicated that a majority would accept a partial withdrawal.

U.S. prison rate record high

The Sentencing Project, a prisoners support group, reports U.S. prisons now hold 1.3 million inmates and that the incarceration rate went up 22 percent since 1989. Only Russia had a higher rate. In 1992, the United States led the world in incarceration rates, with South Africa in second place.

The report found that U.S. Blacks were imprisoned at six times the rate of whites and that 583,000 Black men were in the U.S. prison system while 537,000 were enrolled in higher education. Clinton's crime bill will include more than \$10 billion to build new state and Federal prisons.

Exxon to pay billions for oil spill

A federal jury ordered the Exxon Corporation to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages for an oil spill from a supertanker that ran aground in 1989. The money will get distributed among 34,000 fishermen and other Alaskans. The award was the largest ever in a pollution case. Previously the largest civil award ever in an environmental case was the \$470 million paid by Union Carbide for the poisoning deaths and thousands of injuries suffered in the chemical plant disaster in Bhopal, India, in 1984.

Other trials still await Exxon. Fishermen and other plaintiffs not included in the first trial are seeking \$300 million in compensatory damages.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

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THE MILITANT

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The 'Militant' takes the side of working people in the fight against Washington's attempts at economic and military domination of the hemisphere. It exposes the hypocrisy of the Clinton administration's policy toward the Haitian people. Don't miss a single issue!



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Athens expels 50,000 Albanians

BY BOBBIS MISAILIDES
AND NATASHA TERLEXIS

ATHENS, Greece — In retaliation for the trial of five ethnic Greeks in Albania on charges of espionage and illegal possession of arms, up to 50,000 Albanians were expelled from Greece in August. The five were convicted on September 7 and sentenced to prison terms of six to eight years.

Two Greek army divisions, as well as special units of the police, have been deployed on the northern border with Albania. In scenes resembling guerrilla warfare, Albanians of all ages who walk the ravines and precipitous mountains that form the border between the two countries in order to seek work in Greece were hunted down. Others were arrested in the fields and construction sights where they work. Without any formality and without the possibility of contacting family or retrieving possessions, 1,500 people a day were simply loaded onto buses and transported to the border post.

Reports that the deportees were beaten and otherwise mistreated are widespread. The vice president of the Rail Workers Union Federation attempted to protest after witnessing one such incident. He himself was then arrested and charged with "slander against the authorities" and hindering the job of the police. The charges were later dropped.

The Greek government of Andreas Papandreu, head of the social democratic Panhellenic Socialist Movement, denies that the deportations have any connection with the trial. "We are taking steps to repatriate...in the framework of guarding the borders, maintaining public order, and fighting crime," said government press secretary Evangelos Venizelos. He also argued that these were not deportations since the immigrants were in Greece illegally.

Extortion by police

There are some 300,000 Albanians working in Greece. Of these, not even 3,000 have work permits. This is a source of great profit for many industries. In addition, extensive cases of extortion by cops in exchange for granting stays of deportation have come to light recently.

The five people who were convicted are members of Omonia, an organization that claims to fight for the rights of Greeks in Albania. They were arrested after the shooting of two Albanian border guards this spring and accused of spying for Athens. They deny the charges and have recanted their confessions, charging that they were obtained through torture.

The international media has had limited access to the trial. Throughout it squirmishes and arrests of ethnic Greeks have occurred.

In response to the convictions, the Greek government recalled its ambassador from

Tirana "for consultation" and has blocked European Union (EU) funds destined for Albania. All Albanian citizens are being barred from entering Greece, regardless of whether or not they hold visas. Vehicles with Albanian plates are likewise denied entry.

Miltiades Evert, a leader of the main conservative opposition party, New Democracy, stated, "The convictions are not only directed against the Greek minority in Albania, but are also a hostile act against Greece itself, which is obliged to take tough action to avert a further shrinking of its expatriate communities around the world." Evert called for freezing the bank accounts of undocumented Albanian workers. "Not a single illegal Albanian should be allowed to stay in our country," he said.

Antonis Samaras, a leader of Political Spring, a split-off of the New Democracy Party, called the conviction a vicious provocation against Hellenism. Christos Sartzetakis, former president of Greece, called on the government to struggle for an autonomous region in "North Epirus," the Greek rulers' name for southern Albania and home of the Greek minority.

Throughout the 20th century Athens has repeatedly attempted to advance into southern Albania. Recently their economic interests in the region have mounted. Greek capitalists now rank second only to Italians in investment in Albania. German capital comes in third. The shattering of the Stalinist regime in Albania and the instability unleashed by the war in the former Yugoslavia hold both threat and opportunity for the capitalists of Greece who seek a greater role in the region in the face of powerful rivals from Europe and the United States.

As part of this, the Greek rulers have expressed their willingness to "defend the Greeks of Albania." The heightened tensions around the trial are another episode in this framework. However, debate has broken out among bourgeois political parties over how far to push in this particular case. President Konstantinos Karamanlis is said to have "castigated all those who contribute to the buildup of tensions between Athens and Tirana as being extremely irresponsible," according to the daily *Athens News*.

A trap for workers and farmers

The Greek government has posed as the defender of the rights of Greeks in Albania, derailing their struggle for equal rights into Athens' foreign policy. But this stance is a trap for these workers and farmers. Greek speakers from Albania had hoped for privileged treatment when they came to "the motherland" seeking work. They soon found out that this was not forthcoming.

Very few have even been granted the legal right to be in the country. One Greek construction worker, who was recently deported back to Albania, stated to the *Athens News*, "The politicians always say the minority is a bridge between the two countries and we — the bridge — always feel trampled on. I really don't like being a bridge." Another deportee said, "Are they crazy? I voted for [Albanian president Sali] Berisha, but not to be closed into this country forever. I love Greece, but they won't let me in."

The hysteria around the trial has put wind in the sails of right-wing elements who openly campaign for the annexation of southern Albania. One example of this was the flight into Albanian airspace by a Greek air force captain, Thomas Vrakas,



An Albanian youth being seized for deportation in Athens.

who took a crop duster and dropped thousands of anti-Albanian leaflets to the ground. During his court appearance hundreds of right-wing protesters rallied around the courthouse chanting, "Freedom to Vrakas the hero." Vrakas was released on probation at a September 9 hearing.

The German government has indicated that Greece's process of monetary "convergence" within the EU be tied to the easing of tensions with Tirana. Rome has expressed similar views. The U.S. government, on the other hand, has offered to mediate between Tirana and Athens and win the release of the five Greek Albanians.

Socialist candidate joins Toronto labor rally

BY SUSAN BERMAN

TORONTO — "We are launching the Communist League municipal election campaign on Labor Day because we want fighting workers, students, and young people to know that there are working-class answers to the crisis of capitalism," said John Steele, the Communist League mayoral candidate in the November 14 Toronto municipal election.

Steele, 54, is a member of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2113 and an assembly line worker at Ford Electronics. On September 5, he joined the IAM contingent at the annual Labor Day parade organized by the Labour Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

Almost 25,000 union members turned out for the annual event. Among the

marchers was a militant contingent of some of the 3,000 taxicab drivers, members of the United Steelworkers of America, who have been on strike for a first union contract for more than three weeks.

A campaign statement distributed to the participants explained, "The Communist League campaign is part of the growing resistance of workers and young people to what the capitalist system has to offer — a future of economic depression, fascism, and war."

"Our campaign aims to tell the truth about the resistance of fighters like the taxi drivers, striking Caterpillar workers in the United States, and the Cuban workers and farmers who are fighting Washington's threats against their socialist revolution," said Steele.

Supporters of the Communist League campaign back unionists and others fighting harassment by Canada's secret police, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS). Recent revelations show the government used the CSIS to try to break a strike of unionized postal workers in 1988 and to promote a right-wing racist outfit that organized goon attacks against immigrants from Third World countries. In

1991, Steele and other IAM airport workers fought successfully to push back a CSIS campaign to harass them for their union and political activity.

"For working people the way forward is to unite to defend the most oppressed," says the Communist League campaign statement. "That means defending self-determination for Native people and Quebecois, opposing all racist attacks and discrimination, opposing all cuts in social services, demanding a reduction in the work-week with no cut in pay to spread the available work around, and fighting for affirmative action in jobs and education."

In the first week of the campaign, Steele and his supporters joined taxi workers on their picket lines. They also helped build and participate in a September 10 demonstration of almost 100 in front of the U.S. consulate and the Liberal Party headquarters demanding that Washington stop its aggression against socialist Cuba and that Ottawa end its complicity with the U.S. government's war preparations.

Susan Berman is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1285 at the Chrysler assembly plant near Toronto.

Communist League candidate speaks at forum in Sweden

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Maria Hamberg, Communist League candidate for Parliament in the September 18 elections, challenged the perspective of a prominent representative of the most powerful capitalist family in Sweden at a Militant Labor Forum here September 10.

Capitalist Peter Wallenberg "demands a 10-year guarantee for a 'positive and stable climate for companies and bosses,'" stated Hamberg. "He warns that the far-reaching plans presented by the Social Democrats to save money to pay the budget deficit won't be enough and that the only way to solve the economic crisis confronting Sweden is more flexible labor laws, more flexible wages, and 'measures to increase the motivation for individuals to look for jobs instead of relying on welfare.'"

Wallenberg says that "the coming government should make individuals pay more of the expenses instead of the state."

"This is the first time a member of the Wallenberg family has spoken out publicly on political matters since 1918," Hamberg told forum participants. In 1918 a suffrage reform diverted the beginnings of a revolutionary movement in Sweden.

Hamberg is a factory worker and a member of the Swedish Food Workers' Union. She described how five office workers

were fired with just one week's notice at the meatpacking plant where she works. "A coworker told me, 'This is torture of human beings! This is what more flexible laws mean,'" Hamberg said.

"All the other parties agree that the budget deficit is the most important political question to be addressed. They agree that the capitalists must be compensated for the crisis, not the workers," Hamberg noted.

"Peter Wallenberg is worried about the international economic rating of what he calls 'the kingdom.' But this is not our kingdom," the Communist League candidate said.

"Our road forward is to fight for solidarity and a solution to the crisis working people face. We need to fight for a six-hour workday, cancellation of the Third World debt, affirmative action, and to defend our democratic and social rights, including sick pay, unemployment pay, and health care. We need a working-class voice to raise these demands," she concluded.

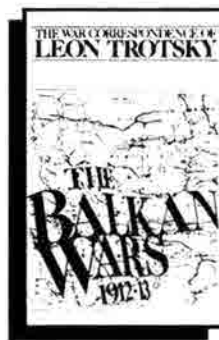
The Communist League is also running candidates in the county of Stockholm, and the municipalities of Botkyrka, and Södertälje in Stockholm.

Catharina Tirsén is a member of the Swedish Food Workers' Union in Stockholm.

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THE TRUTH ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA
Why Working People Should Oppose Intervention
George Fyson, Argiris Malapanis, and Jonathan Silberman

The carnage in Yugoslavia is the product of the crisis of the depression-ridden world capitalist system. Rival gangs of would-be capitalists—fragments of the former Yugoslav Stalinist regime—are fighting a war for territory and resources. Far from displaying any humanitarian concern, the U.S. and European powers are intervening militarily to advance their competing interests. \$8.95



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Effort needed to raise \$50,000 by October 1

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

"Supporters in the Twin Cities have decided to take a goal of \$7,500 for the Pathfinder Fund," writes Doug Jenness. "This is \$1,000 more than the initial proposal, but we are confident it can be achieved."

Efforts to organize the fund are getting under way in cities around the world. A total of \$6,310 arrived in the mail this week — the fifth of the three-month international drive that ends November 15.

Felicity Coggan reports that additional funds will be coming soon from New Zealand. Supporters there boosted their goal by \$400 to \$2,500 after a successful rally in Christchurch earlier this month. A second meeting, planned for Wellington, will focus on opposition to Washington's aggression against Cuba and military intervention in Haiti. Planning rallies like this in other cities early in the drive will help get momentum going to meet the goal of collecting \$50,000 by October 1.

A special push to meet this challenge will not only help get the fund in gear. It will also raise the money needed right now to meet the costs of Pathfinder's extensive publishing program.

Che Guevara's Bolivian Diary

Pathfinder has printed 21 books and pamphlets so far this year. Several more are in the hopper. These include both new books, like the soon-to-be-published *Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*, and reprints of titles from Pathfinder's backlist that have completely sold out.

The *Bolivian Diary*, which has been out of print in English for more than 20 years, is being published by Pathfinder in a completely new edition that makes this important communist work accessible to a new generation of revolutionary-minded fight-

ers.

It provides Guevara's account of the 1966-67 effort to forge a fighting movement of workers and peasants capable of winning the battle for land and national sovereignty and opening the socialist revolution on the Latin American continent. This edition also includes interviews, recollections, and excerpts from the diaries of other veterans of the Bolivian campaign, as well as an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. A special feature is the account *My Campaign with Che* by Bolivian leader Inti Peredo, which appears in this edition for the first time in English.

Just off the press and on its way to bookstores is the new printing of Leon Trotsky's autobiography *My Life*. Next will be *Labor's Giant Step* by Art Preis, a history of the battles that helped forge the modern U.S. labor movement.

Also scheduled for reprint soon is *American Railroads: The Case for Nationalization* by Dick Roberts, a book explaining who owns the railroads, why they are being run into ground, and why they should be reorganized to meet the needs of the majority who use them — workers, farmers, and small businesses.

The task before Pathfinder supporters remains to reach out to striking workers and other unionists, youth, working farmers, and others interested in revolutionary literature to ask them to help in this publishing effort by making a pledge or cash contribution. A special effort must also now be made to collect donations as soon as possible from those who have already made pledges.

To be included on the weekly scoreboard, money must arrive at the Pathfinder office, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014, no later than Tuesday, 12 noon EDT.

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Brooklyn	\$8,000.00	\$3,020.00	38%
Cincinnati	\$150.00	\$50.00	33%
Salt Lake	\$5,000.00	\$1,275.00	26%
Pittsburgh	\$6,125.00	\$1,531.00	25%
San Francisco	\$10,000.00	\$1,075.00	11%
Detroit	\$6,000.00	\$610.00	10%
Twin Cities	\$7,500.00	\$760.00	10%
Cleveland	\$3,500.00	\$255.00	7%
Seattle	\$5,000.00	\$215.00	4%
Newark	\$6,500.00	\$265.00	4%
Boston	\$5,000.00	\$150.00	3%
Chicago	\$7,400.00	\$220.00	3%
New York	\$7,500.00	\$200.00	3%
Los Angeles	\$8,500.00	\$150.00	2%
Washington, DC	\$3,500.00	\$51.00	1%
Atlanta	\$5,000.00	\$70.00	1%
Morgantown	\$2,175.00	\$25.00	1%
Miami	\$2,900.00	\$26.00	1%
Birmingham	\$2,800.00	\$20.00	1%
Greensboro	\$2,500.00	\$5.00	0%
Des Moines	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Houston	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	0%
Peoria	\$750.00	\$0.00	0%
Portland	\$50.00	\$0.00	0%
St. Louis	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	0%
Other		\$50.00	
TOTAL	\$123,300.00	\$14,197.00	11%

Enclosed is \$_____ I pledge ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other_____

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—YOUNG SOCIALISTS AROUND THE WORLD—

Youth in Midwest join unfolding labor battles

BY BRIAN PUGH

PEORIA, Illinois — Here in central Illinois, young people are watching and thinking about the struggles of the United Auto Workers (UAW), United Rubber Workers (URW), and the United Paperworkers in Peoria and Decatur. "It's good to see the UAW out on the picket lines at 1:00 a.m.,

standing up for the little man," said Shawn, a 21-year-old worker from Peoria, Illinois.

The UAW strike against Caterpillar, the rubber workers strike at Bridgestone/Firestone, the lockout at A.E. Staley, and other labor struggles make this area a focal point for the strike wave taking place in the United States today. Joining this resistance by working people to the bosses' attacks is part of winning young people who are looking for an alternative to the brutality of capitalism to a socialist perspective. The Young Socialists has been in the middle of discussions like this one, participating in rallies and picket lines for the strikers and encouraging other young workers and students to join in the fight.

Teams of Young Socialists have come through Illinois over the last several weeks, linking up with communist workers, visiting picket lines, and setting up tables on university campuses in the area. On a recent team to Knox College in Galesburg, a young woman came to the table of Pathfinder books and the Militant and pointed to a leaflet by the Illinois Socialist Workers campaign that stated support for the UAW strikers against Caterpillar. "This is what you should be talking to students about," she said. A number of the students agreed that the fight for safe working conditions, decent wages, and democratic rights on the job was in their interests.

In July, a team of Young Socialists from Madison, Wisconsin; and Minneapolis, came to Peoria and were able to have a meeting with a daughter of a Caterpillar striker who is active in the Families in Solidarity group. They discussed why it is important for young people to be active in the strike and support the union because it is our future that we are guaranteeing.

On August 9, at a UAW Local 974 union meeting on the campus of Bradley University, Young Socialists met professors and students supporting the Caterpillar workers. One of the students, Matt Dettler, explained why he should care about the strike as a student. "I want to be an engineer and



Militant/Jon Hillson
Young Socialists visit picket line of Soo Line strikers in St. Paul in July.

not a scab," he said. "College is about the future. If I don't stand up now, five years down the road Caterpillar will throw me into working a machine that I don't know how to operate, on top of the engineering job." He continued, "All we have is staying together. We have one card. It comes down to solidarity."

Discussing Cuba

One of the campaigns the Young Socialists have been encouraging students and workers to participate in is the need to defend the socialist revolution in Cuba against the attacks by U.S. imperialism. On September 15, at Illinois State University (ISU) in Normal, 30 students attended a presentation by Brian Taylor, a member of the Young Socialists in Chicago and the Socialist Workers candidate for controller.

Taylor explained why it is important to know the truth about Cuba and support the

socialist revolution. "You aren't born a communist, you become one through participating in struggle," he said. Taylor explained that the most self-sacrificing layers of workers and youth in Cuba are mobilizing to defend the gains they have won through the socialist revolution in the face of difficult economic conditions, social polarization, and heightened attacks by Washington.

One participant in the meeting asked if Fidel Castro promotes "machismo," or the hierarchy of male over female in the family. This sparked a lively debate about what has been achieved to make great inroads against sexism, racism, and homophobia in Cuba. Robin Kissinger, a member of the Young Socialists from Chicago, told of his experiences in Cuba and the role that the Federation of Cuban Women plays in helping lead the socialist revolution. Kate Eisenhower, a student at ISU, who decided to join the Young Socialists, commented that it was impossible for Cuba to eradicate these tools of oppression, being the only socialist government in the world. But what has been achieved in Cuba is a real conquest of the revolution.

The Young Socialists set up tables on the campus for two days before the meeting. Six subscriptions to the Militant were sold along with 18 single issues. One activist in Flames of Resistance, a Latino group that wants to work with the Young Socialists around Cuba and issues relating to political prisoners and cop brutality, bought a copy of New International no. 8 on the political ideas of Che Guevara.

Out of the meeting on Cuba, the YS recruited a new member and got names of three people who are interested in the organization.

Eisenhower, the new member, said "It is important to be politically active and call yourself a socialist openly" so that young people can actually see what socialism really is, instead of the "negative picture that is painted by the ruling class."

Brian Pugh is a member of the Young Socialists National Committee.

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Young socialists are working to build an organization that can be part of the international working-class movement to put an end to the horrors of capitalism and begin to build a new world.

You can help by contributing to the \$12,000 YS Fund Drive. Just fill out the coupon below and send it with your contribution to the Young Socialists, P.O. Box 2396, New York, NY 10009. For more information call: (212)475-6482.

\$7,454 Collected

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____

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☐ I would like to join the Young Socialists

☐ Please send me more information

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CITY_____ STATE_____ ZIP_____

PHONE_____

Cuba coverage boosts sales

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

As Washington moves thousands of troops into Haiti, the Militant has expanded its news and political analysis about the situation there. From actions protesting the U.S. government's occupation of the country to campus tables and discussions on the job, Militant distributors have been getting a good response as they step up sales of single copies and subscriptions.

Many distributors report that new readers are particularly attracted by the on-the-scene coverage from Cuba by Militant reporters Martín Koppel and Laura Garza.

From Houston, Robbie Scherr writes, "Our team of two sales people in the Rio Grande Valley did really well. We had a table up September 19-20 at the University of Texas's Pan-American campus where we sold 10 Militant subscriptions, one to Perspectiva Mundial, one copy of To Speak the Truth, and a Nueva Internacional. This brings us up to 27 Militant subscriptions — almost half our goal of 60!" Many of the campus discussions, Scherr reports, centered around developments in Cuba. Distributors there are discussing raising their goal. Supporters in other cities are encouraged to follow this example, as local Militant goals still fall almost 100 short of the international goal of 3,300.

A sales team at a September 20 demonstration in New York City demanding Washington get out of Haiti sold a subscription and six single copies of the Militant to the 200 people who attended.

After the second week of the 10-week international subscription campaign, Militant distributors have sold 19 percent of the



Militant/Osborne Hart
Participant in September 8 rally in San Francisco to protest Washington's treatment of Haitian refugees gets Militant.

goal — just 1 percent behind schedule. *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions lag slightly further behind with 14 percent sold. The campaign to sell 1,250 copies of *New International* stands at 7 percent.

October 1-9 sales target week

The upcoming October 1-9 special target week will be a valuable organizing tool to help supporters place all three components of the international circulation drive on or ahead of schedule. Through the course of this week of intensified sales activities, distributors will be devoting their efforts to organizing a multitude of subscription teams — including both local and special regional teams — to reach fighting workers, youth, and political activists.

In several cities around the world sales are off to an excellent start. From Athens, Greece,

Georges Mehrabian reports, "We sold one Nueva Internacional at a Cuba solidarity event and two Militant subscription renewals. Our newest subscriber is a law student at the University of Athens. She got the subscription based on the article on Macedonia that appeared in June. She said, 'I was very surprised to read this. It is the first time I have seen such information in print. This is a great paper. I have been looking for something like this for a long time.'"

Glova Scott in Philadelphia writes that Militant supporters there have sold six subscriptions in York, Pennsylvania, where members of the United Auto Workers are on strike against Caterpillar. Five of these were sold to striking workers at the picket line or other related activities.

"Sales to Canadian Pacific-Soo Line railroad workers in the aftermath of the presidential suspension of the United Transportation Union (UTU) strike continues to be brisk," reports Jon Hillson from Minneapolis. "Two UTU members bought introductory subscriptions and another CP switchman renewed his sub and bought a copy of *To Speak the Truth*."

Next week the Militant will carry coverage from in Puerto Rico by supporter Seth Galinsky from Miami, Young Socialists leader Brock Satter from New York, and others who are travelling to the Caribbean country this week on a sales and reporting team.

We urge all readers to keep sending in reports on sales experiences and to be sure to get subscriptions into the Militant business office by Tuesday at noon EDT in order to be counted on the following week's scoreboard.

'To Speak the Truth' well received

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

"After everything that's happened in the world, people are looking for answers," said Estelle DeBates, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Morgantown, West Virginia. De-

Bates, a union activist, has been campaigning to promote the Pathfinder book *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End*. "Supporters of the Militant here take our time to explain how since 1959 Cuba has been in the forefront of the struggle to stand up to imperialism in defense of oppressed people everywhere — from Vietnam to the Congo," she said. One of DeBates's coworkers in the steel factory who recently bought *To Speak the Truth* remarked, "The book will be good in my discussions on Cuba."

Sibyl Perkins, a member of the International Association of Machinists in Seattle, attended a union meeting where a shop steward purchased a subscription to the Militant. The steward saw a promotional ad for the book on the front page. He asked, "What's that deal?" He subsequently bought the book.

Alyson Kennedy reported, "We sold seven copies of *To Speak the Truth* in the Washington, D.C., area." Amtrak worker Tom Headley sold two of the books. The day after she purchased a book, one coworker told him she had already read 50 pages and was talking to her crew about it. "When a coworker said, 'We should get Fidel Castro out of there,' she told me she responded, 'You can't blindly believe what you read in the

newspapers about Cuba.' She then showed the crew members her copy of *To Speak the Truth*," Headley reported.

Ardy Blandford, a member of the United Auto Workers at Fawn Engineering in Des Moines, Iowa, reported, "We sold a copy of *To Speak the Truth* to a woman who was at a vigil protesting the death penalty and another to an abortion rights activist who joined the picket line of striking rubber workers at Firestone. We also sold the book to a coworker at my plant who is participating in weekly discussions with us based on the speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara that are printed in the book. We have sold 10 books with relative ease," she said.

Jon Hillson, a rail worker in Minneapolis, wrote, "At a debate over whether the United States should intervene in Haiti, I had a discussion with a supporter of the Cuban revolution. We discussed the links between an invasion of Haiti and Cuba. I said, 'Here's where you can read why Washington is unrelenting in its hatred of the Cuban revolution.' The person bought the book and later decided to get a subscription to the Militant."

Pathfinder has experienced brisk sales of the book recently. The net sales to date for this year total 591 copies, 372 of which have been sold in September alone.

WHERE WE STAND end of week two

SOLD 19%

SHOULD BE 20%

	Militant			Perspectiva Mundial			New International		
	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%	sold	goal	%
France	2	4	50%	2	5	40%	11	6	183%
Australia	12	30	40%	0	8	0%	2	18	11%
Greece	3	11	27%	0	1	0%	2	6	33%
Canada									
Toronto	28	90	31%	1	17	6%	3	35	9%
Montreal	19	80	24%	3	25	12%	1	45	2%
Vancouver	17	75	23%	1	10	10%	6	20	30%
Canada total	64	245	26%	5	52	10%	7	100	7%
New Zealand									
Wellington	2	5	40%	0	0	0%	0	4	0%
Christchurch	12	35	34%	0	1	0%	0	8	0%
Auckland	16	75	21%	1	5	20%	1	30	3%
New Zealand total	30	115	26%	1	6	17%	0	42	0%
Sweden	10	40	25%	6	20	30%	2	15	13%
United States									
Portland, OR	3	2	150%	0	1	0%	0	2	0%
Denver, CO	2	5	40%	0	3	0%	0	2	0%
Cincinnati, OH	3	10	30%	0	5	0%	0	4	0%
Peoria, IL	9	30	30%	0	2	0%	0	10	0%
Twin Cities, MN	36	125	29%	1	17	6%	3	35	9%
Philadelphia	31	115	27%	5	30	17%	4	47	9%
Houston	16	60	27%	3	12	25%	0	12	0%
Salt Lake City	27	110	25%	0	16	0%	1	35	3%
Washington, D.C.	20	85	24%	8	30	27%	0	35	0%
Seattle	18	80	23%	0	12	0%	0	23	0%
Detroit	22	100	22%	1	11	9%	0	27	0%
Des Moines, IA	18	85	21%	4	36	11%	0	35	0%
San Francisco	31	150	21%	5	42	12%	7	70	10%
Albany, NY	2	10	20%	1	1	100%	0	3	0%
Hartford, CT	1	5	20%	0	1	0%	0	4	0%
Morgantown, WV	10	55	18%	0	1	0%	0	17	0%
Atlanta	19	105	18%	1	15	7%	0	25	0%
Boston	20	115	17%	3	36	8%	8	52	15%
Pittsburgh	18	105	17%	1	12	8%	2	26	8%
Greensboro, NC	11	65	17%	2	4	50%	3	15	20%
Cleveland	16	95	17%	0	16	0%	0	20	0%
New York	24	145	17%	4	40	10%	5	70	7%
Los Angeles	38	230	17%	10	101	10%	1	105	1%
St. Louis	13	80	16%	1	6	17%	3	22	14%
Chicago	22	145	15%	2	32	6%	2	50	4%
Brooklyn	16	110	15%	6	36	17%	8	65	12%
Albuquerque, NM	1	7	14%	0	2	0%	6	2	300%
Birmingham, AL	10	75	13%	0	5	0%	1	15	7%
Miami	15	120	13%	16	55	29%	5	70	7%
Newark, NJ	13	140	9%	6	35	17%	0	50	0%
Edinboro, PA	0	6	0%	0	1	0%	1	3	33%
Fl. Madison, IA	0	2	0%	0	1	0%	1	2	50%
New Haven, CT	0	10	0%	0	2	0%	2	8	25%
U.S. total	485	2582	19%	80	619	13%	63	961	7%
Iceland	2	13	15%	0	1	0%	0	4	0%
Britain									
London	12	70	17%	0	3	0%	0	37	0%
Manchester	6	50	12%	0	3	0%	0	20	0%
Sheffield	4	40	10%	0	1	0%	0	14	0%
Britain total	22	160	14%	0	7	0%	0	71	0%
Belgium	0	2	0%	0	2	0%	0	1	0%
Puerto Rico	0	2	0%	4	5	80%	1	4	25%
TOTAL	630	3204	19%	98	726	14%	88	1,228	7%
SHOULD BE	860	3300	20%	140	700	20%	250	1,250	20%

BOOKS SOLD		
City	Goal	Sold
Atlanta	20	3
Birmingham	15	0
Boston *	25	0
Brooklyn	40	26
Chicago	30	1
Cleveland	20	1
Des Moines	20	10
Detroit	18	1
Greensboro *	10	1
Houston	17	10
Los Angeles *	40	4
Miami	25	8
Morgantown	10	5
New York	50	21
Newark	30	5
Philadelphia	22	5
Pittsburgh	20	2
Peoria	10	0
Salt Lake City	20	3
San Francisco *	30	18
Seattle *	20	9
St. Louis	12	0
Twin Cities	25	6
Washington, D.C. *	20	7
Auckland	10	0
Christchurch	5	0
Montreal	0	4
Vancouver	0	4
Total	569	153
Union	Goal	Sold
ACTWU	8	1
IAM	40	1
ILGWU	10	1
OCAW	24	3
UAW	35	5
UFCW	6	2
USWA	10	1
UTU	15	4

* proposed goals

ACTWU-Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; AEEU-Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Workers Union; AFMEU-Automotive, Food, Metals and Engineering Union; CAW-Canadian Auto Workers; EU-Engineers Union; FPU-Food Preservers' Union; IAM-International Association of Machinists; ILGWU-International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; MWU-Meat Workers Union; NUM-National Union of Mineworkers; NUW-National Union of Workers; OCAW-Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; RMT-National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers; TGWU-Transport and General Workers Union; UAW-United Auto Workers; UFBGWU-United Food, Beverage and General Workers Union; UFCW-United Food and Commercial Workers; UMWA-United Mine Workers of America; USWA-United Steelworkers of America; UTU-United Transportation Union.

Prison authorities reject appeal by Curtis

Continued from front page
and framed by Des Moines police in 1988 on charges of rape and burglary. He was arrested just hours after speaking at a public protest meeting in defense of 17 of his coworkers at the Monfort packinghouse. The workers — from Mexico and El Salvador — had been seized in an immigration raid on the plant three days earlier.

In the six years Curtis has been in prison, thousands of workers, farmers, political activists, and others have joined an international campaign to defeat the frame-up and win his release. Last year, after a lengthy effort, he won a "gate pass" from prison officials, which allowed him to work outside the medium security unit where he was held. A gate pass is viewed as a step toward minimum security and release on parole. Curtis and his supporters were gearing up to press the Iowa State Board of Parole for his freedom this fall.

At the end of August, Curtis was thrown into investigative segregation in the maximum security state penitentiary. He was told that he was being charged with violating four prison regulations. Two weeks later, he was shackled and taken to a hearing before an administrative law judge. He was denied an attorney, the right to cross examine the evidence against him, and the right to confront his accusers, including one anonymous witness who was identified only as a "confidential informant." Over his objection, Curtis's legs and arms were kept shackled throughout the hearing.

Curtis told the judge that while he did have an argument with another inmate the day he was thrown into segregation, he never assaulted anyone.

After the hearing, guards dropped a decision into Curtis's cell informing him that he had been found guilty on one of the four charges: assault. In his decision, Administrative Law Judge Charles Harper stated that even though the central evidence

against Curtis — a statement by a prison guard who presented a document he claimed was a transcript of an interview with another person — was "not the best evidence," it was enough.

Harsh prison conditions

Harper sentenced Curtis to the maximum penalty allowed under prison regulations — 30 days in the hole. He also sentenced him to serve an additional year in maximum security lock-up and to forfeit 365 days of time he had earned off his 25-year prison sentence.

The conditions Curtis faces in the hole are severe. He is denied a job and kept in his cell alone for 23 hours a day. He is allowed out for one hour to exercise, alone, in a fenced area. This effectively prevents him from working, socializing or speaking with other inmates.

He is denied both radio and television. Though he has subscriptions to both the New York Times and the Des Moines Register, he gets them in the mail several days after they are printed.

Curtis has been relieved of all his personal clothing. He has been issued prison garb, including blue laceless sneakers. He is permitted only three showers and shaves a week and only two phone calls a month. Whenever he leaves his cell, even to go to the shower only five feet away, he is shackled.

Confined to his cell for virtually the entire day, Curtis faces restrictions in corresponding with the outside world and writing political articles for the Militant. While there is a table in his cell, there is no chair to sit at. To write he has to sit on his bed and balance the paper on his lap.

The segregation cell block where Curtis is held is cold. In order to receive hot food to warm him up, Curtis has requested prison officials shift him from his normal vegetarian diet to one based on cooked

meat. Across the aisle from his cell is a hole in the wall. Curtis said in an interview that he has seen a rat going in and out of it daily.

The object of these conditions is to isolate Curtis as much as possible from interaction with his fellow prisoners and with others outside the prison gates. The goal is to break him down.

In addition, if the effort to put more jail time on Curtis succeeds without broad public exposure and attack, prison authorities will be emboldened to use similar frame-up tactics again and again to deny him parole and keep him behind bars.

Curtis's supporters around the world have organized to shine a spotlight on the arbitrary and repressive moves against Curtis by the prison authorities. Hundreds of letter and faxes have been sent to both Paul Hedgepath, acting warden of the prison, and to Sally Chandler Halford, director of the Department of Corrections, urging that the conviction be overturned, charges dropped and Curtis be released from lock-up. Word has begun to spread.

Fight to overturn conviction

At a Labor Day event in Decatur, Illinois, more than 30 unionists, including many on strike against Caterpillar, Inc., and Bridgestone/Firestone or locked out by A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co., signed letters calling for Curtis's release from lock-up. Others — from Sweden to New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Canada — have added their voices.

"The recent treatment of Mark Curtis, by officers under your control, is a demonstration to all who are familiar with his circumstances of just how desperate and vindictive your administration is," wrote Tim Bettger in a message faxed to Hedgepath, September 20. Bettger, a miner in Yellowknife, Canada, and a member of Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied

Workers Local 4, was himself framed-up by the police for union activity.

"Personal experience with corrections personnel has taught me that such persons are not above falsifying incident reports to satisfy their twisted egos," Bettger said. "That they did so and that it resulted in segregation at a time so closely approaching parole hearings lends your administration no credibility." "The immediate release of Mark Curtis from segregation and a sincere recommendation for parole would be reconciliatory steps. Curtis deserves no less," Bettger said.

The same day Andile Yawa, secretary of international relations of the African National Congress Youth League sent another protest message. "The ANC Youth League of South Africa is deeply concerned with the sentencing of Mark Curtis into the isolation hole for a month, and the extension of his sentence for a year," the letter said.

Two particularly powerful voices have been those of Michele Vignola and Lisa Faruolo on behalf of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. They have already sent two faxes — one after Curtis was placed in lockup and the second after his kangaroo court conviction. Peltier is a Native American rights leader who has been incarcerated for more than 18 years on government frame-up charges that he killed an FBI agent.

"We hope to see this issue resolved, the verdict overturned, and Mark taken out of lock-up," Vignola and Faruolo stated in their second letter.

"It has come to the attention of certain members of the foreign correspondent community in Japan through the Japanese media that there may be a questionable — and possibly political — lockup in your state," David Hough said in a letter faxed to Hedgepath from the International Communication Research Associates in Tokyo, Japan.

"This is to urge you to reverse your recent punitive actions against Mr. Mark Curtis, a prisoner in the Iowa State Penitentiary," Charles Cairns, Professor of Linguistics at Queens College of the City University of New York, said in another message. "The hearing that led to his being placed in the 'hole' apparently did not have even the semblance of due process; the evidence was completely hearsay; Curtis did not have an opportunity to be represented by counsel; there were no witnesses against Curtis and he was not allowed to cross-examine his accusers; furthermore, the deliberations lasted only a very few minutes."

"Of course Curtis has been accused of assault once before," wrote William Hovland, an architect with Kazumi Adachi and Associates in San Pedro, California. "That was by the police officers who beat him after the original frame-up. They were later found guilty of lying about the assault charges, of beating Mark Curtis, and were fined and ordered to pay damages to Curtis and his attorneys."

Exemplary prison record

"Mark's record in prison has been exemplary," wrote Denis Stephano, President of Local 8-234 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union in Linwood, Pennsylvania. "He continues to remain an active individual fighting for justice, that is not a crime but to be applauded. Given the continued harassment and denials of parole, his stamina and commitment to advancing humanity and solidarity is laudatory."

"These attempts only further my resolve to do what is possible to win Mark's release," Stephano concluded. "Release Curtis from Segregation and Parole Him Now!"

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, Iowa, urges that all supporters of political rights fax or write letters asking that Curtis be released. Messages should be sent to: Acting Warden Paul Hedgepath, Iowa State Penitentiary, Box 316, Fort Madison, Iowa, 52627, fax (319) 372-6967; and to Sally Chandler Halford, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309, fax (515) 281-7345. Copies of protest messages, along with urgently needed financial contributions, should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311, fax (515) 243-9869.

Miner sentenced on frame-up charges

BY RAIN BURROUGHS
AND ESTELLE DEBATES

LOGAN COUNTY, West Virginia — "I would just say that I'm sorry that Mr. York is dead, and for his family, and I still say that I didn't do it, your honor." These were the words of Jerry Lowe just prior to his September 6 sentencing in a federal court in Charleston, West Virginia. Lowe, plans to appeal his nearly 11 year sentence, but will have to do so from prison, since the judge refused his motion to remain free on bond.

Lowe was framed-up for the killing of Eddie York, an employee of a nonunion contractor, who was shot at Arch Mineral's Ruffner mine near Yohyn, West Virginia, on July 22, 1993. The shooting occurred when Lowe, an officer in UMWA Local 5958, was on picket duty. He was exiting the mine in a convoy of four vehicles and, as he approached a UMWA picket shack, was shot in the back of the head.

The shooting took place in the third month of the union's seven-month strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators Association. During the strike, guards from Elite Security carried out a series of provocations against strikers at the Ruffner mine, including firing guns in the air, teargassing a picket shack, and verbally threatening pickets.

Guards carry guns

In Lowe's trial, UMWA member Kenneth Maynard testified that he videotaped Arch Mineral guards carrying weapons near the picket line outside the Ruffner mine. He said one guard carried a pistol in his pocket and another carried what looked like an Uzi sub-machine gun stuck into the back of his pants. The judge refused to allow the defense to show Maynard's video.

Seven other miners served time in jail on 120-day sentences after pleading guilty to misdemeanor charges of rock throwing. All eight miners were originally indicted last November on federal charges. The government dismissed the charges against the seven in exchange for their guilty pleas to a state misdemeanor charge of destruction of property. Lowe, alone, continued to face the federal charges for which he now is serving time.

Lowe was found guilty June 24 on all

four counts brought against him in a federal indictment: conspiracy, disabling a truck used in interstate commerce, attempting to disable the driver of a truck used in interstate commerce, and use of a firearm in commission of a federal crime.

Many miners throughout the area are outraged by the conviction and sentencing. "People are real aware that this is a frame-up," said Libby Lindsay, a UMWA miner from Van, West Virginia. "Everybody thinks Jerry Dale Lowe got hung for no other reason than that he is union."

Target is UMWA

Eddie York's family has allied itself with Arch Mineral and the federal government in their attack on Lowe and the UMWA. York's widow expressed disappointment that Lowe was sentenced to only 11 years in prison, "I think he should have gotten life."

Throughout the proceedings, the union itself was on trial. "Unions are necessary. Strikes may be necessary, but violence is not necessary," said Assistant U.S. Attorney John Parr, putting the blame for the violence squarely on the union.

On July 26, Wanda York filed a lawsuit against the UMWA alleging the union's conduct led to the fatal shooting of her husband. The suit names UMWA president Richard Trumka, Vice President Cecil Roberts, District 17 International Board representative Howard Green, District 17 president Robert Phalen, Region 2 Director Donald Barnett, UMWA Logan field representative Manuel Ojeda, UMWA Local 5958 president Ernest Woods, and six other union officers.



UMWA member Jerry Lowe coming out of the courthouse in Charleston, West Virginia. Lowe will appeal his 11-year sentence on frame-up charges of murder.

It depicts striking workers who received strike benefits as "paid agents" of the union. The suit demands \$27 million in damages — "an amount sufficient to dissuade them and persons similarly situated from such acts in the future."

Also named in the suit are Elite Security and Black Hawk Security. Both firms are cited for their provocations against pickets, including shooting and verbal abuse. Although both security firms were paid by Arch Mineral Corp., the company itself is not named.

Rain Burroughs and Estelle DeBates are members of United Steelworkers of America Local 1141.

Haitians in Miami angry with actions of U.S. government

BY JANET POST

MIAMI — Within hours of U.S. troops landing in Haiti there was a marked change in the broad support Washington's announced invasion enjoyed among most Haitian rights activists here. Many Haitians began expressing anger at the U.S. government's actions, especially after television news reports showed Haitians being beaten by the military police while U.S. troops stood by.

"This is no longer 'intervention', this is now a U.S. 'occupation,'" declared one Haitian worker demonstrating on the main street of Little Haiti here September 19, following the arrival of U.S. troops in Haiti.

"The U.S. should leave us alone! Let us run the country along with [Jean-Bertrand] Aristide," exclaimed Samedi Florvil, an executive board member of Veye Yo, in an interview at the organizations headquarters. Veye Yo is one of the largest Haitian rights organizations in the United States.

"We saw the real face of the U.S. government today, which has been fighting for a long time to take a part of Haitian land. It just took a real traitor of a general to sell them what they want," Florvil added.

When asked why many Haitians living in Miami supported the planned U.S. invasion of the Caribbean nation, Florvil said, "It is not because they want the United States to come into Haiti. It's that they see no alternative."

Florvil also commented on the participation by former president Jimmy Carter in the diplomatic delegation sent to Haiti by U.S. president Bill Clinton in the days leading up to the military intervention. "It was Carter who tried to convince Aristide not to take office in the first place following Aristide's election," he pointed out.

Haitian workers in Miami expressed differing opinions on U.S. policy as they gathered outside shops and homes September 19 to discuss the current situation.

"I just want peace and security and for Aristide to go back," said a laid-off garment worker.

'U.S. military can't solve problems'

A Miami high school student said, "Experience will make the Haitian people realize that the U.S. military can't solve Haiti's problems or the problems of any country. They will put Aristide into office — but not into power."

"Do you think [Haitian General Raoul] Cédras will leave October 15? I don't think so," said Madeleine Joseph.

As television footage from Haiti began to show people welcoming the arrival of U.S. troops, Jean Locharde told television reporters here that he thought "nothing bad could happen in Haiti while U.S. soldiers are there." Several Miami businessmen also being interviewed by reporters said they were just hoping the trade embargo would end.

Another Haitian worker said in an inter-

view, "If they had taken the military out forcefully there would have been bloodshed on both sides. Now we will see protection, not bloodshed."

"This way is better because less people will die. We can get a good night's sleep and some bread," the worker said.

Jumel, who runs a small shop in Little Haiti, had just watched on television a Haitian being frisked by U.S. soldiers on a street in Port-au-Prince. "This made me feel really bad," he said. "They never should have let things get this far. It's so sad to see your country in this position. I see what they do to Blacks in Miami."

Washington trained Haitian military

The U.S. State Department has announced that it wants to recruit Creole-speaking police from the Miami Police Department to participate in the occupation of Haiti as "peacekeepers" to train a "democratic" Haitian police force.

"This can't work," said Ton-Ton Go, a supporter of Veye Yo. "You can't quiet the lion," he said in explaining the brutal history of the Haitian police and army.

Go said that not only was it impossible to democratize the Haitian military but that he had great concern for the life of Aristide upon his return to Haiti.

Another worker also commented on the so-called retraining of the Haitian military. "That's crazy. Retrain? The United States is who trained them to do what they do now," he said.

Guy Victor, executive director of the



Militant/Ben Fiering

Some 200 people demonstrated in Times Square in New York September 20, to oppose Washington's invasion of Haiti. Unionists, students, Haitian activists, defenders of the Cuban revolution, and others organized rallies, press conferences, and public forums in cities across the United States. On September 19, 40 people picketed in Seattle, 35 attended a vigil in Detroit, and 25 people participated in a press conference and vigil in Pittsburgh.

Haitian Refugee Center in Miami, said in an interview, "They say the Haitian army will handle any disturbances and then call on the U.S. military if the situation can't be controlled. This just shows the complete collaboration between the U.S. and Haitian military."

"We heard this morning that two more bodies were found in Haiti of people killed during the night. The hoodlums are still in control; it's business as usual," reported Victor.

"This is a sellout," Victor said of the September 18 agreement between Washington and the Haitian military. "It calls for Parliament to pass legislation to give

amnesty to Cédras and for him to leave by October 15. His term of office ends October 13 anyway. And two-thirds of the elected parliament are in hiding, many in Miami." He noted the pact does not call for the disarmament of the Haitian military. The refugee center, he said, is calling for the "immediate departure of the military thugs, disarming the military, and restoration of order by the coalition forces."

"[U.S. General Colin] Powell spoke of Cédras as a 'man of honor,'" Victor said. "What honor is there in 10,000 Haitians killed, 100,000 forced to leave by boat, and half a million displaced and in hiding in Haiti?"

Minnesota activists debate intervention

BY JOE CALLAHAN

MINNEAPOLIS — Activists here protested and debated the Clinton administration's looming invasion of Haiti.

Sixty people demonstrated in downtown Minneapolis September 16 on four hours notice. Women Against Military Madness (WAMM), a local antiwar organization, called the picket line. The demonstrators included veteran activists, students from the University of Minnesota, a few workers, and a group of youth from South West High School. "This is just horrible," one student said, "I hate what Clinton's doing."

"The U.S. military has invaded Haiti no less than five times," WAMM staff person Rachel Meyers told the crowd. "Invading Haiti over and over again in the name of capitalist profits will not restore democracy in Haiti. Those who consider our politics to be progressive cannot stop protesting U.S. military invasions and occupations of countries."

Other speakers included representatives of the Haiti Justice Committee, Socialist Workers Party, Up and Out of Poverty, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Veterans for Peace, Cuba Friendship Committee, and Refuse and Resist.

The event was covered by four major television stations, among other media. After addressing the rally, Socialist Workers candidate for governor, Jon Hillson, spoke to reporters for KMSP television. "The invasion has nothing to do with restoring democracy in Haiti," he said. "U.S. intervention was decisive to setting up decades of military dictatorship. [U.S. President Bill] Clinton, Congress, and the Pentagon do not invade to allow a militant trade union movement to re-emerge, they want the lid kept on peasant organizing, they will suppress student protests. They seek to fashion a reliable puppet regime which carries out their will. Their occupation will hammer any Haitian working people who oppose this. None of this is in the interests of working people in the United States."

Marea Himelgrin, the Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, released a joint

statement to the press with Hillson. She also condemned Washington's invasion during radio interviews.

Opposition to U.S. intervention was not unanimous among the 120 participants at a September 17 debate on the pending invasion sponsored by the Resource Center of the Americas.

Debate on U.S. military intervention

The event received widespread media coverage, including an article in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* entitled, "Left, right shift positions," a reference to the fact that a number of U.S. and Haitian activists at the meeting either endorsed, or would not condemn U.S. intervention.

Jean-Robert Cole, who is a member of the Haiti Justice Committee and an engineer, told the gathering that U.S. military intervention to depose the Port-au-Prince dictatorship is "the only way to resolve the crisis." This would restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, Cole argued, and "create space" for political activity for his supporters. Three years of brutal repression in Haiti has devastated "the middle class, which will be necessary to build the country when this is over," Cole said, noting that Aristide's agreement with Clinton's initial invasion plan should convince doubters to support intervention.

Cole's points were rejected by Haiti Justice Committee member Neil Elliot, a professor at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minnesota. The majority of the Committee, Elliot explained, opposes military intervention. For Washington to install a progressive regime committed to democratic change for "unionists, peasant organizers, and youth would mean a complete change in the entire history of U.S. foreign policy," he said.

U.S. intervention in Panama and Grenada made conditions worse, not better, Elliot said. In the years since the military coup in Haiti, "all the pressures of U.S. negotiations have been on Aristide, not the military. I'd like to believe [Clinton's policy] will bring about democracy," he said, "but I'm doubtful."

The Haiti Justice Committee released a

public statement in which it called on "the peacekeeping force [to] create a safe environment in which legitimate segments of Haitian society can begin to resolve deep-seated divisions."

The presentations by Cole and Elliot sparked a sharp debate among long-time opponents of U.S. intervention in Central America, the Caribbean, and elsewhere.

"There is no 'actor' in Haiti to resolve the situation," Larry Weiss, a leader of the Resource Center said, "there is no FMLN, no EZLN," he said, referring to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front in El Salvador and the Zapatista National Liberation Army in Mexico. "I know what imperialism will do, so I'm not going out in the streets and say 'hooray invasion.' But I'm not going out in the streets to protest it either."

"Washington couldn't care less about democracy in Haiti," another activist said to applause. "Its real objective is the Haitian people. 'Now the United States has another military base right next to Cuba, which we should remember remains Washington's ultimate target. For 35 years Cuba has never let the world down, and we should not let Cuba down now.'"

"I don't support the military invasion," another participant noted, "but couldn't there be some kind of constructive intervention, a high-bred intervention?"

One member of the Haiti Justice Committee, who originally supported an invasion, said he reversed his position after watching Clinton address the nation. "I became more and more uncomfortable the more I saw and listened," he said.

Most of the dozen Haitians at the meeting spoke in favor of the invasion. "I don't think the people will ever rise up again," said one exiled journalist.

"I want Aristide returned," said a young woman opposing the majority of fellow exiles, "but how many people will be killed? I want him returned, but not on the back of an invasion force."

Joe Callahan is a member of the United Auto Workers at Ford's light truck assembly plant in St. Paul, Minnesota.

AN APPEAL TO OUR WORKER CORRESPONDENTS

Thousands of U.S. troops have begun the military takeover of Haiti, aiding the military thugs who remain in power. U.S. provocations continue to mount at Guantánamo, Cuba. Millions of workers in factories and other workplaces are watching and discussing these events. The *Militant* needs short stories from every reader about these debates on the job, the picket line, or in the union hall.

Such reports are essential to paint an accurate picture of what the working class thinks and does around these major events in world politics. We urge our worker correspondents to jot down a few paragraphs and send them by E-mail or fax every week.

Haitian military brutalizes protesters as U.S. troops watch

Continued from front page

6,000 U.S. troops on the scene "the task of keeping law and order in Haiti is the responsibility of the Haitian police force and the Haitian military. We are not in a business of doing the day-to-day law and order, for that matter resolving or quelling any demonstrations."

Clinton's military intervention in Haiti followed the September 18 agreement worked out by a U.S. delegation of former president Jimmy Carter, U.S. senator Sam Nunn, and former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Colin Powell with Cédras and other Haitian military rulers. Clinton canceled a publicly announced U.S. invasion in exchange for a promise by Cédras and Gen. Philippe Biamby to step down from the government by October 15.

The pact between Washington and the Cédras regime ensures that "the Haitian military and police forces will work in close cooperation with the U.S. military mission." The agreement also orders the Haitian parliament to vote into law a general amnesty for Haiti's military leaders. All the crimes committed by the butchers of Port-au-Prince since the overthrow of the Aristide government in 1991 are to be forgiven.

More than 3,000 people have been killed at the hands of the regime since that time, and tens of thousands have been forced to flee the country. "They want us to absolve all these military leaders," Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis, a Haitian deputy who was forced to leave the country and now lives in exile in Montreal, said. "How can this be? This is an agreement between the U.S. and the Haitian military, not with the Haitian people."

Reporters surprised by the accommodating agreement with the military rulers asked the presidential delegation why the Haitian military leaders were not being asked to leave the country. Carter, who apparently has developed a warm relationship with the military tyrant and his wife, testily replied, "It's a serious violation of inherent human rights for a citizen to be forced into exile." While in Haiti Carter invited Cédras to teach at his Sunday school. Cédras and his wife Yannick are both "deeply religious," Carter said.

After two days of searing television coverage of people gathered on the streets of Port-au-Prince being beaten and dispersed by the Haitian police, Clinton began to try to reign in the situation. U.S. military police who arrived in Haiti on September 21 were ordered by Clinton "to moderate the conduct of Haitian security forces without assuming their responsibilities." The U.S. military is now supposed to deter Haitian cops from using "unreasonable" force.

Earlier, the White House and the Pentagon dismissed the suppression of protests by the Haitian police as unfortunate episodes, which were simply unavoidable. But thousands of Haitians continued to pour into the streets in spite of the repres-

sion and millions of people around the world witnessed the brutality on television screens. The news coverage began to hurt Clinton's political credibility in bourgeois public opinion. The White House changed its stance and decided to label the violence intolerable.

"Four or five nights of it on television would have undone us politically," explained one White House official.

'Here to work with the military'

To make the point that U.S. forces were not entering Haiti to undercut the military, Gen. Hugh Shelton, head of the U.S. military operation in Haiti, went straight from the airport to military headquarters in downtown Port-au-Prince to confer with Cédras. Afterwards, Shelton spoke warmly of the Haitian general, describing their meeting as "exceedingly successful" and calling the military leaders "our friends."

Shelton's emphasis on cooperation with the military was echoed at volume by the U.S. helicopters that circled over the city with loudspeakers blaring in Creole, "This is not an invasion, we are here to work with the Haitian army. This is not an invasion." To calm civilians the helicopters also broadcast, "This is not war. Stay calm, we are here to bring democracy and humanitarian aid."

The Clinton administration is especially worried that the existing security forces might disperse before large numbers of them can be incorporated into a new armed body to maintain law and order. "The only institution in Haiti that works is the military," was how one Pentagon officer put it at a September 20 press briefing. "Essentially civil order has always been maintained by a system of intimidation, and clearly the only way it was, is, you thumped people."

In fact, many of the Haitian police and military troops will soon be on the U.S. payroll. According to a *Washington Post* report, U.S. authorities are compiling lists of Haitian military and police personnel to whom the U.S. Agency for International Development can begin paying salaries. Brushing aside criticism that, according to Clinton's plan, notorious torturers and killers would now make up the bulk of the security forces, one defense department official said, "You're not going to change Haitian society overnight.... A [Haitian] policeman isn't going to meet the standards of a policeman in Peoria, Illinois."

Aristide maintains silence on pact

Aristide issued a statement September 20 that did not even mention the accord that Clinton's delegation reached with the Haitian military. The exiled president had earlier raised objections to the U.S. plan to incorporate the Haitian military into a new police force.

Sensing a debacle in the making if the exiled president didn't come out in support of the U.S. military operation, the adminis-



"The only institution that works in Haiti is the military," said a Pentagon official. Now, repression in Haiti continues with the acquiescence of the U.S. invading forces.

tration put intense pressure on Aristide to attend a Pentagon meeting on the intervention. They then dragged him to an elaborate ceremony where Aristide offered belated thanks for Washington's support in helping him regain the presidency. White House officials said, however, that Aristide remained virtually silent during the hour-long briefing after Defense Secretary William Perry asked him to counsel his supporters against street violence.

The fact that Aristide neither praised the military takeover of his country, nor the deal that Washington put in place with Cédras and his henchmen, was seen by many capitalist politicians as an affront to the Clinton administration. They used the opportunity to denounce the Haitian leader and make plain their continued preference for the military regime still in power. "The proper response for Mr. Aristide is not to second-guess or nitpick," fumed Rep. David Obey, Democratic Congressman from Wisconsin. "The proper response is two words — thank you."

Big-business press applauds agreement

While many working people who have followed events in Haiti look with growing horror as the U.S. military sets up the Haitian military for its future role in running the country, the arrangement has pleased U.S. lawmakers and big business. This glee comes from the seemingly greater leeway that the Clinton administration now has to control the situation in Haiti and determine who rules and how.

"Whether by design or default, the Clinton administration is no longer overly committed to the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide," the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out in a September 20 editorial. "The terms of the deal...give the U.S. greater control over the shape of Haiti's near-term political future." The key issue is "who gets to pick the new Haitian police force," the *Journal* editors said. "We'd opt for letting U.S. trainers assemble the force."

Haitian people demand Aristide return

Aristide became president of Haiti in February 1991 after winning nearly 70 percent of the vote. His continuing popularity among the Haitian masses stems from his earlier campaign against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Jean-Claude Duvalier and his ongoing fight against the atrocities of the Cédras regime. In 1988 the paramilitary Tontons Macoutes, organized by Duvalier, attacked Aristide's church while he was saying mass, killing 13 people.

Once in office Aristide ordered price cuts on some basic foods and announced plans to raise the minimum wage. He also took some initial steps toward reforming the army and weeding out the Tontons Macoutes. He began replacing some senior army officers and appointed Cédras to the top position of chief of the army general staff.

Aristide also tried warming up to the U.S. government and the International Monetary Fund. He began implementing some austerity measures to build better business relations with international capitalist banking institutions.

But the limited reforms carried out under Aristide's administration and the space to press their demands gained by the toil-

ing masses through their successful popular uprising against the Duvalier dictatorship proved too much for the Haitian capitalist and landowning class. They almost universally backed the military coup in 1991 and the widespread terror campaign carried out by the new military regime that followed.

While Washington projects that Aristide will definitely be returned to power by October 15, the supposed deadline for the military leaders to step down, Clinton can barely contain his contempt for the exiled president and is working overtime to cement the more important ties to the current military leaders of Haiti.

Clinton's real intentions regarding the situation in Haiti is most clearly seen in the racist immigration policy Washington has carried out against Haitian refugees seeking political asylum from the terror in their country. While running for president in 1992, Clinton blasted then-president George Bush for his inhumane policy of closing the door to Haitian refugees. But once in office Clinton adopted the very same policy. Washington sees tens of thousands of Haitians attempting to emigrate to the United States as a destabilizing factor in the entire region. Some 15,000 Haitians are now sitting in a prison camp at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Washington plans to send these refugees back to Haiti.

Support is overwhelming

Clinton's military action in Haiti has won an overwhelming bipartisan vote of confidence up to now. While some in Congress had been pressing for a vote on the use of the military in Haiti, congressional leaders went into session quickly to give their stamp of approval to the occupation. The House voted 353-45 in praise of the work of the delegation sent by Clinton to negotiate a deal with the military leaders of Haiti. The Senate voted 94-5 to commend the president.

But right-wing politician Patrick Buchanan denounced Clinton's policy as a historic blunder, a product of "gunboat liberal" policy. Buchanan contends that it was U.S. support to the "crazed cleric" Aristide that destroyed Haiti. Now the U.S. military must go in to save the country. Buchanan wrote in a syndicated column September 21 that Washington should have just accepted the "Cédras coup as a done deal, as we have countless times throughout Latin America."

Haiti is the poorest country in the hemisphere, with an average yearly income of about \$250. Only 40 percent of the population of 6.5 million has access to safe drinking water. Not a single capitalist politician is talking of prosperity emerging from U.S. policy. Instead, blatant racism and utter contempt for the Haitian people runs across much of the commentary in the big-business press.

The authors of a front-page article in the September 20 *Wall Street Journal*, for example, could hardly contain themselves. "Creating democracy in a country accustomed to tyrants and coups will take years, not months," they wrote. "Creating stability in a culture long poisoned by revenge and voodoo is equally tricky."

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Guantánamo: U.S. provocations mount

Continued from front page

growing number of people in detention at tent camps on the base, has risen further. U.S. forces are detaining some 15,000 Haitians as well as 28,000 Cubans. They are held in what most describe as miserable conditions, in total isolation, with no news and almost no chance to communicate with the outside world.

A powder keg

The desperate situation facing these thousands of detainees has created a powder keg. The U.S. government could use an incident there as an excuse to step up aggression against Cuba. In late August, in response to Cuba's refusal to stop people from departing for the United States without entry visas, Washington imposed drastic new restrictions on travel to Cuba — preventing most Cuban-Americans from visiting their relatives — and barred cash transfers to family members on the island. While an accord on immigration was finally reached, with the U.S. government agreeing to grant 20,000 visas a year to those it deems eligible, the fate of the Cubans being held in Guantánamo is unsettled.

The resulting desperation of Cuban detainees is evident. Cuban border guards told reporters of numerous recent incidents involving Cubans fleeing the camps and trying to make their way across the small strip of land between the base and Cuban territory that is covered with 60,000 mines, making it the most heavily mined strip of land in the Americas. One guard, Lt. Alberto Mora Rodríguez, 22, took part in the rescue of three Cubans who escaped from the camps and ended up in the minefields in the early morning hours of September 16. A similar incident resulted in a Cuban soldier losing his leg in a rescue effort. That soldier remains assigned to the Border Brigade at his request.

Cuban television here broadcast an interview September 17 with five Cubans who had recently escaped from the camps and returned to Cuba. They reported there was no relief from the heat and no privacy in the tents, which are densely packed together. This part of Cuba has the driest climate on the island. The base is located in desert-like terrain dotted with cacti. The detention camps are in areas cleared of any source of shade, with dust a constant companion.

The five escapees reported they received scant portions of food twice a day, at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The latrines are overflowing, and there is little attempt to provide sanitary conditions. The children receive no milk and some are in poor health. There is little medicine or medical care available. They also reported four cases of rape committed by detainees in the camps.

Residents of Guantánamo and the small towns of Caimanera and Boquerón, which border the base, can receive the U.S. naval base's television and radio signals. The base radio reported September 16 that a Cuban detainee had died after he jumped off a cliff, apparently trying to dive into the water. The base, which occupies 45 square miles, covers two separate pieces of land on either side of Guantánamo Bay. A few weeks ago, a group of Haitian refugees tried to flee by swimming across the bay, mistakenly thinking the other side was Cuban territory. They were recaptured.

Cuba's Armed Forces Ministry issued a report that on the morning of September 18, two more Cubans escaped and were rescued by Cuban forces from the minefields. One was injured in a mine explosion and subsequently had a leg amputated.

Cuban dies in mine blast

Cuban radio and television also carried news of an incident a day later of four individuals who attempted to make it off the base. One was reportedly killed and another injured. At least 27 Cubans have attempted to flee the detention camps since the beginning of September.

Several disturbances by Cubans protesting the conditions they face have broken out. Some have been put down by U.S. troops.

Looking through a telescopic viewer at the Cuban Border Brigade's lookout



"We're opposed to an invasion of Haiti," said Jesús Denis Duany (right), a worker at the salt mines in Caimanera, next to the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay.

post — less than two miles from the base perimeter — the three Cuban encampments are clearly visible, with packed rows of green and tan tents and lines of port-a-johns nearby. It seems difficult to believe that 28,000 human beings can be packed in that small strip of land. That morning, few people are out and about, since staying in the stifling tents is the only way to be out of the direct sunlight. The Haitian encampment is visible further away.

The camps are a contrast to the rest of the base, which has modern buildings, some several stories high. Sergeant Yoandris Lazo Alvarez, 19, pointed out the large houses where the base commander and other officers live. The number of U.S. military personnel there has increased from 2,500 to nearly 10,000, while civilian family members have been evacuated.

The Cuban guards also pointed out the large U.S. flag flying brazenly from one of the U.S. guard posts nearest the perimeter line.

Caimanera and Boquerón are so close to the base perimeter that all travelers must pass through military checkpoints to enter them. The Caimanera salt mines, which account for three-quarters of Cuba's salt production, are right on the border. Workers on the roads around the mines are within easy range of many of the 44 U.S. watchtowers. Access on some roads is limited after 6:00 p.m., with no bicycles allowed, because of the potential danger. The inner part of the bay, which is under Cuban control, has a port where salt and many other vital products are loaded every day. All ships entering the bay to pick up or unload cargo pass by the U.S.-occupied points on both sides. U.S. naval forces allow only civilian ships to travel into the bay.

U.S. provocations

U.S. forces on the base have recently carried out provocations against the Cuban forces across the border. Lt. Mora and Moraima Santiago, a leader of the Union of Young Communists who previously served as a volunteer in the Border Brigade, reported that U.S. troops have aimed blinding reflector lights at the Cuban guards. Previously, guards only staffed the U.S. posts at night, but since the detention camps have been set up, they are in operation 24 hours a day.

A visit to the Border Brigade's museum graphically brings home the 35-year history of U.S. provocations launched from the base. These include the detention and murder of one Cuban civilian base worker in 1961, the torture and murder of a Cuban fisherman in 1964, as well as the deaths of two Cuban border guards who were shot by U.S. forces in 1964 and 1966. The Cubans later moved their posts back one kilometer (0.62 miles) to avoid more deaths and attempts to provoke more serious incidents.

A map in the museum shows how in the early years of the revolution, especially 1961-62, Washington used the base to or-

ganize counterrevolutionary attacks in many cities and towns throughout eastern Cuba.

Between 1959 and 1983, U.S. forces have subjected Cubans to 904 incidents of shots being fired, 685 violations of Cuban air space, 132 violations of Cuban waters, 528 violations of Cuban land, 462 incidents of objects thrown at the Cuban side, and 82 episodes of harassment with reflector lights. There have been countless incidents of obscene behavior by U.S. occupying forces trying to provoke the Cuban guards, and some photos in the museum give graphic proof of these frequent occurrences.

The constant violations are part of what the Border Brigade must be prepared to confront and the guards have a special respect among the population. During a visit with several of the soldiers near the lookout post, Osmani Torreblanca explained that he had volunteered to serve in this area. "I'm proud to be part of the Brigada Fronteriza. We're defending what's ours," he declared.

Salt miners organize defense

Workers in the nearby Caimanera salt mines also described the increased tensions in the area during the past weeks.

Workers at the mines, the main industrial workplace in the area, are reminded every day of the hostile foreign military presence in their country. Like others, they must show special passes to cross the checkpoints along the road to Caimanera. Vicente Herrero, organizational secretary of the mine workers' union there, explained that the 730 workers have also stepped up their nightly defense guard

since mid-August.

Jesús Denis Duany, a machine operator at the salt mines, voiced the concern of many workers as Washington prepared to invade Haiti. "We're opposed to an invasion of Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world, by the most powerful country in the world," he said. "It could lead to a regional conflict." Duany noted that U.S. forces had used their Guantánamo base for previous interventions, including the 1989 invasion of Panama.

"What's the United States going to do in Haiti if the military steps down? Are they going to use their soldiers to attack the Haitian people?" asked Sergio Laborde, 31, a welder at the Huaso bicycle factory in the city of Guantánamo. "The Haitians might be repressed if they rebel. Look at what happened in Somalia," he added, referring to Washington's recent occupation of that African country where U.S. troops cracked down on the population under the guise of a so-called humanitarian intervention.

'Put this in your paper'

"The invasion of Haiti is a show of force," Laborde said, pointing out that such an intervention added more pressure against Cuba, which is already subjected to a U.S. trade embargo. "And put in your paper that I'm against this blockade against Cuba," he added.

Roberto Cuesta, 27, an assembler at the same plant, stated, "Putting thousands of people in those camps in Guantánamo is a provocation." Like others, Cuesta was appalled at the inhuman conditions the detainees were kept in at the base.

While many people interviewed in this and other Cuban cities — particularly factory workers — were outspoken in their concern and anger over the imminent invasion of Haiti, the explosive situation at the Guantánamo base, and the Clinton administration's other aggressive measures against Cuba, a significant number were also hopeful that the new U.S.-Cuba recently immigration accord would defuse tensions between the two countries.

"The United States had to sit down and talk to us," said a young worker who is part of a contingent of voluntary agricultural workers in Guantánamo province. The 3,000-strong contingent has taken the name "Frank País" Second Front of the East, a reference to the guerrilla combatants in eastern Cuba who fought during the Cuban revolution in the late 1950s to overthrow the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista.

"We have an intelligent government that has put the ball in the U.S. court," said another contingent member, referring to Washington's agreement to grant visas to 20,000 Cubans a year. "Now we'll see if they comply with the accord."

With the U.S. naval base now a focal point of tension, older workers in the area view the base as a reminder of what life

Continued on page 12

HELP 'MILITANT' PROVIDE FIRSTHAND COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN CUBA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Perspectiva Mundial editor Martin Koppel and *Militant* correspondent Laura Garza, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Miami, are in Cuba, providing firsthand coverage of recent events from the factories, farms, and schools of the Caribbean country.

The U.S. Army's Atlantic Command refused to respond to the *Militant's* request to send reporters to the U.S. military base at Guantánamo, Cuba.

Militant staff writer Greg Rosenberg and James Harris, a correspondent from Peoria, Illinois, who is a long-time activist in the United Auto Workers, are in South Africa covering events in the class struggle there.



JUANITO REBELDE/ANGELITO BALDOR
August 15 rally in the port of Mariel, Cuba.

More than \$15,000 are needed to cover the costs of these trips. So far, readers have sent \$1,342. We urge you to send a generous contribution. Please send your check or money order to the *Militant*, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

Unionists in Decatur, Illinois, fight efforts to derail labor rallies

BY BRIAN PUGH
AND NELSON GONZALEZ

DECATUR, Illinois — "It's your constitutional right to assemble," stated a sign that one of 200 red-shirted unionists held during the September 12 Decatur City Council study session here. Striking auto workers and rubber workers, as well as locked-out members of the United Paper Workers International Union (UPIU) mobilized their ranks to express opposition to a proposed ordinance that would require a 15-day advance application for a permit to hold a public rally.

These three fighting unions are building an October 1 rally to mark the three-year anniversary of the expiration of the United Auto Workers (UAW) contract with Caterpillar and the two-year anniversary of the expiration of the UPIU contract with A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. They are also organizing a national rally for October 15 in Decatur to support the labor struggles tak-

ing place here.

City Manager Jim Bacon introduced the proposed ordinance, claiming a Ku Klux Klan rally in February indicated the need for tighter regulation of permits for public events. When the meeting was opened to public comment, Larry Solomon, president of UAW Local 751, explained that the ordinance was "one step closer to the curtailing of activity and stopping our freedom of expression." He added, "This is a direct attack on the unions."

Dave Watts, president of UPIU Local 7837, said, "Ordinance or not, we're going to keep on marching and organizing activities." One unionist asked Bacon whether the ordinance had anything to do with the numerous union marches that have taken place recently. When Bacon said no, his reply was drowned out in boos.

Mayor Erik Brechnitz said that the ordinance appeals to him because it would "require union leaders to notify the police



Militant/Angela Lariscy

A.E. Staley unionists march through Decatur, Illinois, on Labor Day, September 5. The city's mayor is promoting an ordinance to restrict the right to demonstrate.

of their demonstration plans." Watts pointed out that the UPIU membership already voted to end communication with the police after a pepper-gas attack in June.

Similarly, UAW members in Decatur have refused to talk to the police because

of their provocative actions on the picket lines.

Unionists began grilling Brechnitz and the city council over the pepper-gas attack by the police during the June 25 civil disobedience action at the gates of A.E. Staley. The unionists defended their right to nonviolently demonstrate and denounced the cop attack. "I disagree and our police disagree," Brechnitz told them, after viewing a video of the police assault.

A spouse of a locked-out Staley worker commented, "I'm a 38-year resident of Decatur and I've never even had a ticket, but on June 4, I was arrested for civil disobedience." Brechnitz asked her, "Did you do it?" She answered, "Yes, when push comes to shove you've got to do something!"

Numerous speakers explained that the mayor and the city council have continued to act in the interests of the companies and not in the interests of the majority of the people of Decatur.

To this the mayor asked, "What do you want me to do?" A UPIU supporter responded, "Get the cops off our backs! They've taken our shacks, harassed our pickets, and attacked us." UPIU member Dan Lane told the mayor, "Pull all [the bosses'] tax breaks. Make them feel the pain that we feel. Quit giving them breaks."

At the end of the meeting the unionists scored a victory when the mayor and three city council members said they would not approve placing the ordinance on the agenda of the next voting meeting.

Caterpillar feels pinch of UAW walkout

"I think the company is scared. Their most recent commercial shows a guy putting a flywheel on an engine without a crankshaft. They don't have the products to sell, they are running out of money. They can't keep it up forever. I thought it might be over in September, but now it seems that they are stubborn enough to keep going." — Duane Burlingame, illegally terminated by Caterpillar.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

PEORIA, Illinois — Fourteen weeks into the United Auto Workers (UAW)-organized strike against union busting at Caterpillar, Inc., the scope of the company's troubles are more well-known here.

In front-page coverage, the Peoria *Journal Star* reported that Caterpillar sent the wrong diesel engines to Ford Motor Co.'s truck plant in Louisville, Kentucky. "We've never had six wrong engines sent," whined John Tomes, a Ford official, in a memo to Caterpillar. "Basically we had to cut all those jobs. It really screwed up the production flow." Caterpillar took almost a week and a half to correct the problem.

The "just-in-time" inventories that Caterpillar, Ford, and other companies are increasingly implementing as part of downsizing and cost-cutting leave them more vulnerable to any disruption. According to industry analysts, there is no such thing as a small mistake. Commenting on Caterpillar's blunder, Blair Brumley, an analyst with Dain Bosworth, told the *Journal Star*, "Today, a high premium is placed on delivering the right quality product at the right time. Not doing so could be costly. A lot of folks would be more than happy to supply Ford the engines that Cat does." Both Detroit Diesel Corp. and Cummins Engine Co., Inc., do business with Ford.

Otha Boyd, a striker in Peoria, reports that the engine mix-up is in fact the second mistake at a Ford plant since the strike began June 20. "Caterpillar explained then

that they were working under a handicap the first time and they would make it right. But you see they can't, so it's no surprise that it happened again. Some of what we do is very high tech. Managers, clerks, and secretaries from the General Office can't just come on the shop floor and produce. That's Cat's problem."

Safety violations at Caterpillar

This week Caterpillar also defied a court order to allow Stephen Mitchell, UAW safety chairman at the Mossville Technical Center, to accompany an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) representative on a plant inspection. Mitchell said the OSHA complaint was filed in June because cranes at the tech center, which carry loads of up to 25 tons, are not properly inspected. "Why don't they want me in there? Is there something they don't want me to see? Or is it to give them time to destroy evidence or correct the problems they do have?" asked Mitchell.

The UAW has explained numerous times that the question of safety is of vital interest to the union. In its latest TV commercial, the UAW reports Caterpillar has been fined more than \$450,000 by OSHA. These include fines for "willful," "serious," and "repeat" violations.

Caterpillar continues to insist that "the plants are humming and products are rolling out the door." The company also boasts that safety is one of its top priorities. However, on-the-job injuries have skyrocketed during the strike.

A worker injured at a nonunion plant reported that as his injury was being treated at St. Francis Hospital, several hospital workers asked him if he was from a Caterpillar plant. Caterpillar recently signed a contract with St. Francis making it the authorized provider in the area. Some strikers suspect that personnel at the hospital have been instructed by the company to keep the number of on-the-job injuries quiet.

Caterpillar continues to use intimidation and bullying in its fight to weaken the UAW strike. Kurt Sender, a steward at the engine plant, reported an experience of the Families in Solidarity group in Canton, Illinois.

"We organized about 80 strikers and supporters to attend an auction by Randy McMillan," Sender said. "He is a realtor and auctioneer when he's not scabbing on our strike, protecting a lifestyle he's grown accustomed to. The auction was on a corner lot and when we looked up we saw state and city cops — including a canine unit — cruising. There were undercover city cops, state cops, an undercover sheriff's deputy, and the chief of police. We saw guns under their shirts."

"We heard that when McMillan returned to work," Sender added, "the company told him that if he wanted to file a suit against the union, Cat would pay legal fees. They told McMillan that he could single out any individual he wanted to." Sender also pointed out that "Vance security commits acts of vandalism for which we will get the blame."

Eagle Electric strikers: 'We forced the company to give us something'

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — A meeting of more than 750 striking workers voted September 13 to accept a contract proposal from Eagle Electric Manufacturing Company, ending a strike that began August 31 with the overwhelming rejection of an earlier offer.

The strike virtually halted production at five plants in Queens, New York, where a mostly immigrant workforce produces fuses, light switches, cable, and related home-electronic equipment.

To get production going again, Eagle's owners — who pulled in \$65 million in profit last year — had to increase their wage offer to the so-called unskilled workers, mostly women, who are the big majority of the workers. The adopted proposal fell far short of the union's demand for a \$1 increase for all job categories in each year of the contract. Endorsed by the negotiating committee of United Auto Workers Local 365 and by officials of UAW Region 9A, the new contract was ratified by a vote of 462 to 310.

The high "no" vote reflected the view of a large minority of workers that more could be won by continuing the strike. Expressing the outrage that has built up among many piece-rate workers, one woman explained, "After 26 years, this company isn't going to fool me anymore."

"We forced the company to give something," a mechanic said at work the next day. "But to make big gains we have to be willing to take a longer strike."

A majority of workers, however, seemed to feel that enough had been gained to jus-

tify going back to work and that the risks of a longer walkout were too great. "When's the last time this company gave even this much," said a mold-maker.

The contract provides for slightly greater wage increases compared to the earlier contract offer for workers designated as skilled or semiskilled. The skilled trades will get a 3 percent raise the first year and a 2.5 percent raise in each of the next two years. The semiskilled workers will get a 2.5 percent raise the first year, and a 2 percent raise subsequently.

The unskilled piece-rate and hourly workers, whose pay currently ranges from \$5.50 to \$7.90 an hour, will get a \$.25 an hour raise each year — an annual increase of between 3 percent and 4.5 percent. For most, this doubles the company's earlier offer.

While the previous offer, like the contracts in force for at least the last decade, would have widened the relative wage gap between those designated skilled and unskilled, the gap will be narrowed slightly by the terms of the new agreement. Workers will also be paid for the September 5 Labor Day holiday.

The company also agreed to reevaluate rates on all piece-rate jobs, and to allow an engineer employed by the union to participate in the study. Piece-rate workers have protested the raising of production quotas, which effectively negate any pay increases.

Fred Feldman is a member of United Auto Workers Local 365 at Eagle Electric Manufacturing Company.

THE CHANGING FACE OF U.S. POLITICS

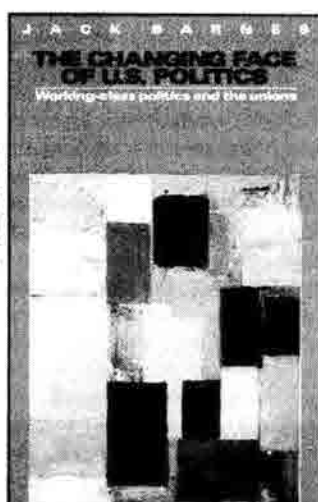
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Soo Line workers discuss results of strike

BY JON HILLSON

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — In engine cabs and depots, shanties, and break rooms, unionized rail workers across 11 midwestern states are discussing the results of the 46-day strike by 1,100 members of the United Transportation Union (UTU) against the Soo Line, a U.S. subsidiary of the giant Canadian Pacific (CP) transportation empire.

In an inspiring display of solidarity, most of the 3,000 other CP-Soo

UNION TALK

workers, who are organized in 16 different craft unions, honored UTU picket lines throughout the strike. As a result, the carrier was unable to split rail labor and impose its crushing concession demands.

UTU picket lines came down August 29 when strikers were ordered by top union officials to return to work after President Bill Clinton invoked the 68-year-old antiunion Railway Labor Act. UTU assistant president Corky Swert had intended just such an outcome when he gave the government 48 hours notice that the strike might be expanded to other railroads. Federal intervention, which UTU officials had claimed from the outset to oppose, became an accomplished fact.

A three-member Presidential Emergency Board (PEB) has up to 60 days to make contract proposals, subject to union and carrier approval. Meanwhile, UTU members labor under old work and wage rules. It's unclear if PEB proposals accepted by UTU officials are subject to membership vote.

Federal intervention aids company

"A majority of people on the picket line didn't want to see the strike end this way," said Mark Burrows, a UTU engineer in Chicago's Bensenville yard. "They were disappointed."

Federal intervention "stinks," said Bensenville switchman John Romano. "After six years [without a new contract], the government should have stayed out of it. This just plays into the company's hands."

After attending a post-strike union meeting, one conductor in the Twin Cities said, "They [UTU officials] never intended to secondary picket anything. There never was a plan. They got us back to work without ever throwing a punch."

Gene Zwach, a picket captain at the St. Paul terminal, thought federal intervention was inevitable. "It was going to have to happen," said Zwach, "because [the CP] was so steadfast. We'll get a better shake this way than with the CP because they never wanted a settlement. They thought we'd give in right away, or the rest of the unions would break the strike. That just didn't happen. The PEB will be better than it was under [Ronald] Reagan or [George] Bush. But don't get me wrong," he added. "I don't think Clinton is on our side."

"I've got mixed feelings about this," said Pat Masloski, a switchman here. "This



Members of the United Transportation Union and 16 other rail craft unions picket the Soo Line headquarters in St. Paul in August during their 46-day strike.

hasn't come to a conclusion. Everything is up in the air."

UTU officials and many strikers point to the blow to unity represented by the action taken by Ronald McLaughlin, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), who urged members to cross picket lines.

According to UTU negotiators, the possibility of many engineers crossing picket lines necessitated the strike threat to bring about government intervention. But despite emergency meetings called by BLE bureaucrats to persuade the engineers to break the strike, less than 15 out of 450 did so.

"The CP broke off negotiations when the BLE said it would cross. I knew the engineers [in the Twin Cities] would stay out," Rich Vitek, a UTU vice-local chairman noted. "But I was surprised they did system-wide. I give them tremendous credit. They proved McLaughlin wrong. Now, we're in the government's ballpark, and I'm scared about what this PEB can do." Many strikers spent up to 50 hours a week in around-the-clock picket duty in several cities, under strict orders from UTU officials not to attempt to stop scabs.

"We ought to have been picketing at public crossings on the CP's main lines," asserts Dave Gay, a midnight shift picket captain. "That's not 'secondary picketing.' We were being held back, and I don't know why."

Anti-scab, anti-Canadian campaign

The main "anti-scab" venture of the UTU officialdom was to campaign — with the aid of friendly elected officials — for the government to enlist Immigration and Naturalization Service cops to expel "Canadian scabs" from the United States. These strikebreakers were CP management personnel.

Many workers took this as good coin in the fight against scabbing. But in reality, the scheme had zero to do with halting strikebreakers. UTU tops vented no similar hostility to U.S. managers who ran train engines, threw switches, and kept terminals open.

"The issue," UTU vice president Bruce Wigent said repeatedly to reporters here, "is whether a foreign corporation can come into America and bust American unions."

"The question of foreigners," Wigent told unionists and their supporters, "is the drum we should be beating."

While this reactionary jingoism was music to the ears of the politicians, it served only to disorient strikers. It blocked a genuine effort to mobilize the UTU, other unionists, and the ranks of labor in general in a real show of force against union-busting and scab herding.

Antiforeign bigotry

Antiforeigner bigotry is a wall against real outreach to a natural and strong ally, the 10,000 UTU-organized CP workers in Canada, who are fighting concessions similar to those faced by the Soo Line strikers. Despite this, rank-and-file initiatives toward such solidarity have been undertaken on both sides of the border.

Caterpillar workers and rubber workers, to Teamsters, steelworkers, and others who have been part of a wave of strikes that began in 1993.

The living experience of the CP-Soo strike, the active solidarity it kindled among coworkers, and the new self-confidence this has produced in many individual fighters are a step forward for the labor movement. All CP unions, including the UTU, face a new negotiation deadline of Jan. 1, 1995.

"We need to be a more effective union," said Jeff Grab, a switchman, "not a dues-collecting machine. We need a leadership different than the 'cut a deal and schmooz with the company' one we've always had."

"If we don't get what we want from the PEB, if it's not acceptable, we have to say 'no,'" said Rich Vitek. "They're drinking their margaritas and we're throwing switches at 30 below zero. With our 'great' government, they'll [CP] get what's profitable. If we go out on strike again, there may be another return-to-work order. Maybe this is the time to say

'no' to the government. Or maybe it's when the national rail contract comes up in January. But sooner or later, someone has got to say 'no.'"

Jon Hillson is a CP switchman, a member of UTU Local 1882 in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is also the Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota. Mark Burrows, a UTU engineer at CP rail in Chicago, contributed to this article.

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

BY MIKE TABER

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the writings and speeches of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

As U.S. threats against Cuba escalate, a growing number of people are looking for an explanation of what lies behind Washington's and Wall Street's implacable hatred for this revolution. One result has been that since early August more than 300 copies of *To Speak the Truth: Why Washington's 'Cold War' against Cuba Doesn't End* have been ordered by bookstores around the world.

This Pathfinder book contains speeches by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara explaining why the U.S. government is determined to destroy the example set by the socialist revolution in Cuba and why its effort will fail. In clear words directed to working people throughout the world, Castro and Guevara answer the lies Washington has been spreading about the Cuban revolution for more than 35 years.

Leading the way in selling *To Speak the Truth* has been the Pathfinder bookstore in New York. After selling out its stock, it ordered 10 more copies, sold these in several days, and then ordered an additional 20.

Among Pathfinder's other titles on the Cuban revolution that are being ordered are *The Second Declaration of Havana* and *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro, *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*, and *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro.

The May 1994 issue of the *Journal of Asian Studies* published at the University of Michigan reviews the Pathfinder book *To See the Dawn*, which contains the resolutions and debates of the 1920 Congress of the Peoples of the East organized by the Communist International and held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The book shows the impact of the October 1917 revolution in

Russia on workers and peasants throughout the oppressed nations of the East. It documents the approach by the revolution's communist leaders toward these fellow toilers and points to the relevance of these struggles for today.

Reviewer Dan Jacobs writes that *To See the Dawn* "provides basic background information to help decipher the jumble of developments along the southern frontier of the former Soviet Union during the past half-dozen years.... This attractively formatted and helpfully illustrated volume provides material for comparing today's situation with that of seven decades ago."

Dozens of prisoners, male and female, are writing to Pathfinder requesting book catalogs, many after reading about Pathfinder's "Books for Prisoners" program in the July issue of the *Coalition for Prisoners' Rights Newsletter*. The newsletter, published in Santa Fe, New Mexico, kicked off its "Voices in Solidarity" column with a story on Pathfinder's 50 percent discount for readers behind bars.

Letters in response to the story have come from prisoners in Lincoln, Nebraska; Cranston, Rhode Island; Cameron, Missouri; Marion, Ohio; Fort Madison, Iowa; and many others.

Pathfinder books are treasured by prisoners. "I've run across a brother with your catalog and it's exactly what I need," writes one prisoner. Another, from Texarkana, Texas, says, "Thanks for giving us this opportunity to purchase your books at that rate.... Could you please send me an up-to-date list of more revolutionary leaders so I can order them." From Attica prison in New York, one writes, "I read one of your books and found this to be the best book that I ever read.... Please rush your book list." And finally, a catalog request from the state prison in Vacaville, California, says, "I'm sure this will be the beginning of a long and fruitful business relationship."

Pathfinder counts on contributions to help cover the cost of getting books to working people and youth in prison. Funds can be sent to "Pathfinder Books for Prisoners," 410 West St., New York, NY 10014.

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Seattle pickets protest U.S. Haiti invasion

BY SIBYL PERKINS

SEATTLE — Opponents of U.S. intervention in Haiti responded quickly to the invasion of the Caribbean nation. About 40 people picketed the Federal Building here September 19 to protest the U.S. occupation. "We don't want this accord. It was made by Jimmy Carter and the military," said Haitian activist Ilera Fleurine. "It's the Haitian people who must decide what government we want and what army we want."

"We oppose this agreement," Baussilien Cloisilien, another Haitian, told the demonstrators. "The agreement aims at crushing the masses of Haitians." Seattle Voices for Haiti and the Seattle-Cuba Friendshipment sponsored the protest, which was covered by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*.

An exchange of differing points of view on Washington's imperialist plans on Haiti took place at a Militant Labor Forum a week before U.S. troops began landing in Port-au-Prince. Forty people filled the Pathfinder bookstore here to standing-room-only September 10 for the program, which was titled "U.S. Hands off Haiti!"

"What is the way forward? What is the answer to this crisis?" asked Eric Aristide, a Haitian journalist speaking on the panel.

"The embargo just brings misery to the people of Haiti. The Haitian people are opposed to the embargo," Rodrigue Paul, a peasant organizer from Haiti, told participants. "The solution is not invasion, not embargo, but return to democratic rule under [Jean-Bertrand] Aristide. The other Haitians here tonight are also refugees," Paul continued. "People who were not safe, who had to come here. Why can't the United States allow other Haitians to come in? They should all be let in."

Open U.S. borders

Twelve refugees and political activists from Haiti attended the meeting, which was conducted in both English and Creole. "The United States should open its borders so Haitians can come here and resume their political activity in a place where it is possible to do so," said one of the Haitians in the audience.

Most of the Haitians at the meeting raised opposition to an invasion of Haiti. One pointed to Cuba. "You can see by looking at the way the United States is acting toward Cuba that they aren't interested in democracy. We Haitians need to organize a revolution ourselves," the speaker said.

Harvey McArthur, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke from the panel. "Economic sanctions are the other side of military intervention. We have to have confidence in the Haitian people to resolve this crisis. We should oppose any sanctions and any invasion. I say, 'U.S. hands off Haiti and open the borders to Haitian refugees!'"

Opposition to U.S. intervention was not unanimous, however. "Any discussion has to take into consideration the views of Aristide. What about his letter asking for quick action? What is his position?" asked one Haitian participant, defending the U.S. government position.

Invasion to defend interests of rich

"Never in history has the United States invaded another country to benefit the workers and peasants of that country," responded panelist Marc Kinzel of the Young Socialists. "They invade to defend the interests of the rich, to assert their 'right to intervene.'"

Geov Parrish, a representative of Seattle Voices for Haiti, said that organization was opposed to the U.S. military invasion. He encouraged everyone to go to a demonstration September 27 to protest U.S. intervention in Haiti. "The sanctions that are in place now hurt the Haitian people," he said.

"They exempt big business. But big business should be targeted and fined \$1,000 a day for doing business in Haiti. The United States should use its economic power to help bring back Aristide. For example, the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank should cut off the Haitian regime and deny it credit."

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

FLORIDA

Miami

Fascism: What It is and How to Fight It. The Rise of Rightist Forces Today. Speaker: Janet Post, Socialist Workers Party, member of IAM Local 368. Tues., Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Defend Mark Curtis. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 803 Peachtree Street (just north of the corner of 5th and Peachtree near Kinko's). Donation \$3. Tel: (404) 724-9759.

U.S. provocations at Guantánamo

Continued from page 9

was like under capitalism in prerevolutionary Cuba, when the country was under Washington's boot.

Aristide Lago, 61, is a retired salt miner in Caimanera. "Before the revolution, the U.S. soldiers used Caimanera as a big prostitution zone. The Americans did what they pleased here. Women had to shut them-

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

The Meaning of the U.S. Occupation of Haiti. Panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2490 University Avenue. At Route 280 intersection, on 16A bus line. Donation \$3. Tel. (612) 644-6325.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Defending Women's Rights Today. Speakers: Mary-Elise Haug, Mid-Atlantic regional director of the National Organization for Women; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South Street. Donation \$4. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Hands Off Haiti! Speaker: Nelson González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Sept. 24, 7 p.m. 147 East 900 South. Donation \$3. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

The Socialist Alternative to War, Racism, and Economic Depression. Hear the Socialist Workers Party candidates. Sat., Oct. 1, 7-8:30 p.m.; reception and buffet: 5:30 p.m. 147 East

900 South. Donation: \$5. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The new 'Clinton Crime Bill' an Attack on Working People! Speakers: Stuart Adams, staff attorney with the National Prison Project of the ACLU; Greg McCartan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Virginia. Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. 1802 Belmont Rd., NW (in Adams Morgan). Donation: \$4. Tel: (202) 387-2185.

BRITAIN

London

U.S. Hands Off Haiti! Sat., Oct. 1, 6 p.m. 47 The Cut (nearest tube Waterloo). Donation £2. Tel: 071 401 2409.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Why Theories About Overpopulation Are False, But Nevertheless Used. Speaker: Björn Thorarinnsson, member of Dagsbrún trade union. Sat., Oct. 1, 4:30 p.m. Klapparstíg 26. Sponsored by Internationalist Forums Association.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Socialist Educational Weekend. History of the Cuban Revolution. Sat., Oct. 1, 2 p.m.; **The Unfolding Democratic Revolution in South Africa.** Sat., Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m. **The Economic Crisis and the U.S. War Drive Against Cuba.** Sun., Oct. 2, 10 a.m.; **Socialism and Man in Cuba.** Sun., Oct. 2, 1 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialists. Donation: \$1.50 per class. For more information, call: (617) 247-6772.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba. National March on Washington. Sat., Nov. 12, 11 a.m. Malcolm X Park, 16 St. & Euclid St. NW. Welcome U.S.-Cuba Friendshipment Caravan; 12:30 p.m. March to White House; 2:30 p.m. Rally at Lafayette Park. Sponsored by November 12 Cuba Coalition, c/o Washington Peace Center. 2111 Florida Ave., NW. For more information, call (212) 620-0072.

OHIO

Columbus

Anti-Fascist Conference. Midwest Anti-Fascist Network (MAFNET) Founding Conference. Sat., Oct. 15 and Sun., Oct. 16. North High School. For more information, call (614) 294-5226 or write to Anti-Racist Action (ARA) P.O. Box 02097, Columbus, OH 43202.

CANADA

Vancouver

Freedom and Justice for Mark Curtis. Speakers: Frances McQueen, Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture; Mike Barker, union activist, member of the Hospital Employees Union; Alicia Barsallo, human rights activist, wrongfully arrested and jailed by Peruvian authorities; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 2, 3 p.m. Showing of Nick Castle video, *The Frame-up of Mark Curtis* 2 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 3967 Main St. (between 23 and 24 Avenues). Donation \$3. For more information, call (604) 872-8343.

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Perish the thought! — "There's a perception that landlords are rich, greedy bastards whose main objective is to screw



Harry Ring

tenants." — Vince Castellano, host of a New York landlord-loving cable show.

Maybe it is the Salvation Army — Because Washington permits only a handful of phone calls to Cuba, Canadian companies offering call relay service are cur-

rently swamped. They charge \$15 for three minutes, compared to \$3 for the few calls that get through on AT&T. Declared the director of Caribe Via Toronto: "We're not the Salvation Army, but at critical moments like these, this is humanitarian work."

Not to hurry — The EPA's finding that the chemical dioxin "probably" causes cancer reinforced an earlier study by the environmental agency that arrived at the same "tentative" conclusion nine years ago. To make it definite, an official explained, will require further study.

Also curbs overpopulation — We reported on the study sponsored by Imperial Tobacco, the

Canadian biggie, which found that killing people with tobacco is a plus for the economy because the victims die before they become a burden to the health-care system. The author of the study conceded that some family survivors may be forced onto welfare. But, he advised, this is small potatoes since most smokers die around retirement time.

They're already working on that — Responding to the Imperial Tobacco report, one doctor tartly observed: "If you push that logic further, you can close the children's hospitals to save money."

Friends of the working stiff — We were touched by Tiffany's

Labor Day ad. It offered "nuts and bolts" cufflinks (silver, \$100; gold, \$1,000). And, a silver miniwrench (\$275). The ad gravely advised: "Tiffany & Co. will be closed today in honor of Labor Day."

Fish and blue chips — The "House of Windsor," a new upscale British catalog butting heads with Neiman-Marcus, is offering a round trip to London, including dinner with a member of the House of Lords and a stay at Hampton Court, the royal palace that was home to Henry VIII. \$25,000.

Friends and relatives? — "An Associated Press (AP) poll showed only 14 percent of Americans give Congress a high trust rating — with only 2 percent trusting

Congress to always do the right thing." — News item.

Love that government — With nearly 1.2 million disabled waiting for action on Social Security claims, the agency says it hopes to reduce waiting time from five months to two months. Observed AP: "Long delays for benefits have left some applicants homeless, others have died, attempted suicide or seen health deteriorating while waiting for a decision."

Improves the neighborhood — Chuck those ratty old lawn chairs and check out the Montecitos. Crafted in cast aluminum, they're available for \$3,750 apiece. Fabrics extra.

Grain elevator workers in Canada walk out

BY HOWARD BROWN

ROSETOWN, Saskatchewan — Unionized since 1936, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Canada's largest grain-handling company, had never been struck by its employees. But after months of rancorous negotiations marked by the big cooperative's demands for contract concessions, the Grain Services Union (GSU) set up picket lines September 7. The GSU represents 1,800 Wheat Pool workers.

With Saskatchewan harvest operations in full swing and the Pool hoping to take delivery of grain straight from farmer's combines, the union aims to shut down the cooperative's entire elevator system. The

strike also involves workers at the Pool's farm service centers, livestock division, head office staff, construction and maintenance division, and at the Pool-owned *Western Producer* newspaper.

Wheat Pool management went to the bargaining table with "the most reactionary and regressive set of bargaining demands that I've seen in 20 years," says GSU secretary-manager Hugh Wagner. Contract provisions involving seniority rights, hours of work, use of part-time workers, and job security for Pool employees are also under management attack. The workers, who face an intransigent management and lack both a strike fund and strike experience, have a

hard fight ahead of them.

A key issue in the strike is management's decision to contract out construction of a new generation of mammoth concrete elevators to nonunion firms. More than 100 GSU construction workers will lose their jobs.

Restructuring grain elevator system

The Pool's concrete elevator program is part of a new round in restructuring the country's elevator system at the expense both of workers' jobs in the industry and farmers, who are forced to bear the increasing cost of transporting their grain to more distant points. The Wheat Pool's system of more than 1,200 elevators in 1971 has shrunk to about 425 facilities today.

The Wheat Pool's drive against its employees coincides with controversy among Pool members over a management plan to transform the Pool's structure as a farmer-owned cooperative through a public share offering on the Toronto stock exchange. "Perhaps they need to beat up on workers so their share offering looks attractive to investors on Bay Street," said GSU spokesperson Larry Hubich.

Thoroughly bureaucratized, the Pool has long subordinated the interests of its

farmer members to profit-taking as a commercial enterprise. With their proposed share offering Wheat Pool's managers and elected officials are merely bringing the company's structure into line with its actual practice in the marketplace. Only fittingly, their "corporatization" initiative is accompanied by an antilabor drive.

Besides being Saskatchewan's largest company, the Pool remains a mass organization, with a web of local farmer committees attached to its country delivery points. A challenge before the GSU is winning support for its fight against management among the Pool's farmer members, most of whom are small and mid-sized producers. Farmers will be inconvenienced by the strike, especially as other elevators become congested. At farm rallies in the province in recent years, GSU leaders have frequently taken the microphone to express support for farmers' demands. When the Pool organized a January 1993 protest meeting of 13,000 farmers in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the GSU asked for time off work for its country-service division members to attend the rally. Their request was brusquely denied by Wheat Pool management. This likely helped earn respect for the union among many farmers.

Farmers discuss crisis

BY DOUG JENNESS

WILLMAR, Minnesota — Some 130 farmers met here September 10 at the state convention of the Minnesota National Farmers Organization (NFO) to discuss the problems facing working farmers. Delegates expressed anger with the decline in farms throughout the state. The number of dairy farms, for example, dropped from 68,000 in 1955 to 12,000 in 1994.

Several farmers explained that costs of production have increased more rapidly than the prices they are able to get for marketing their commodities.

To counter this squeeze, the NFO attempts to enroll farmers into collective bargaining arrangements with food processors and merchants. Through a national and local staff divided into three divisions — livestock, dairy, and grain — contracts are signed with buyers. The NFO believes these collective efforts to offer a larger volume to buyers, as well as providing a staff that follows and estimates the ups and downs of market prices, can help farmers get more favorable prices with lower storage costs for their commodities.

Unlike many cooperatives, which have in reality become capitalist businesses that operate creameries, cheese factories, networks of grain elevators, and so forth, the NFO doesn't buy produce from farmers or process it. It simply serves as a broker for its members. However, like cooperatives, the NFO's marketing agreements are exempted from antitrust legislation by the 1922 Capper-Volstead Act.

In its early years in the 1960s, the NFO nationally organized militant "holding ac-

tions" where farmers joined forces to withhold their commodities from the market to pressure processors and merchants to sign contracts paying higher prices and guaranteeing a market. This effort, which inspired broad support from farmers at the time, was compared to strikes by workers who collectively withheld their labor power to press the employers for higher wages and better working conditions.

New holding actions 'unlikely'

At a news conference at the end of the convention, state president Ed France Jr. was asked if the NFO is likely to use "holding actions" again to press their demands. He said that it was "unlikely," since "those actions were part of our formative period — and in recent years we've now been able to sign agreements with many buyers."

When asked what he would like to see in the 1995 farm bill that legislators in Washington are beginning to discuss, he responded, "100 percent of parity." This demand is for farmers to receive a price for their products that will meet the costs of production, plus a living income for their families. He then laughed and said Congress isn't likely to adopt this proposal.

Many farmers have no health benefits or pay exorbitant premiums to insurance companies. Jim Sarff, a farmer from Eagle Bend, said it cost him thousands of dollars to treat a serious injury his son got on the farm. He added that the need for insurance is especially acute because farming is the "most dangerous occupation."

—25 AND 50 YEARS AGO—



Guido "Inti" Peredo, leader of the Bolivian Army of National Liberation, was reported to have been killed in a battle with police in La Paz, September 9. The announcement was made by Colonel Eufonio Padilla, minister of the interior.

Padilla said Peredo was surrounded together with two companions in a house in the Bolivian capital. According to Padilla, Peredo was killed when a grenade he had thrown exploded prematurely. The two men with him were wounded and both were captured. One was said to be Fernando Martínez, described as a representative of the Cuban press agency, Prensa Latina.

The September 11 Paris daily *Le Monde* seemed to credit the report as accurate. It printed a biographical note describing Peredo as one of the last surviving comrades of Che Guevara. Peredo refused to go into exile with the rest of the survivors of Che's guerrilla organization in 1967 when Che was killed. *Le Monde* gave Peredo's age as 42. It said that he had decided to shift to a tactic of urban guerrilla warfare and that American-trained special units had been used to track him down.

In a recent declaration made public only a week before the report of his death, Peredo acknowledged setbacks to the guerrilla movement, but called for intensification of the struggle:

"The guerrillas will renew the struggle," he said, "which will be long and cruel and

even more violent than in 1967."

Bolivian President Adolfo Siles Salinas issued a reply September 5 saying that the Bolivian army would "respond blow for blow to the guerrillas."



White brass-hats and backward American soldiers are attempting to introduce Jim-Crow practices against American Negro troops in England. The British people, however, are demonstratively opposing the effort, according to the illuminating account of Roi Ottley, noted American Negro author in the New York daily, *PM*.

Ottley, who gives a wealth of factual detail, describes the "noose of prejudice...slowly tightening around the necks of the American Negro soldiers...tending to cut off their recreation and association with the British people."

Contrary to the treatment accorded Negroes in America, the British people received the Negroes with genuine hospitality. "To put it in the language of a Negro soldier, 'I'm treated so, a man don't know he's colored until he looks in the mirror.'"

After an armed clash at Leicester between white and Negro soldiers, signs appeared on bars and restaurants, "For British Civilians and U.S.A. Negro Forces Only."

When two Negro soldiers were court-martialed and sentenced to death for alleged rape in Gloucestershire, 33,000 workers protested to the American authorities, charging the Negroes were sentenced because of their color. Workers in a large local factory went on protest strike.



Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s

by Doug Jenness

Examines the deepening economic and social crisis in the capitalist world and explains how farmers and workers can unite internationally against the mounting assaults from the billionaire bankers, industrialists, and commodities merchants. Booklet \$3.50

New International no. 4

The Fight for a Workers and Farmers Government in the United States



Available from bookstores, including those listed on page 12, or write Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, NY 10014. Fax (212) 727-0150. If ordering by mail, please add \$3 to cover postage and handling for the first book and 50 cents for each additional item.

The shared exploitation of workers and working farmers by banking, industrial, and commercial capital lays the basis for their alliance in a revolutionary fight for a government of the producers. Also includes "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers" by Doug Jenness and "Land Reform and Farm Cooperatives in Cuba." \$9

U.S. troops out of Haiti, now!

Continued from front page

poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The U.S. "military mission" has nothing to do with humanitarian concern for the people of that country. It does have a lot to do with asserting the "right" of Washington to intervene militarily in that region of the world — a deadly threat to the people of Haiti and to the socialist revolution in Cuba. And it has everything to do with strengthening U.S. imperialism's economic and political domination of the hemisphere, in order to keep it safe for big-business interests.

From the first day Clinton's occupation army set foot in Haiti, Washington's policy has been to find a way to keep the Haitian military force intact. To make it possible for the very people Clinton called "the most violent regime in our hemisphere" to have a major hand in running the show in Haiti.

Clinton and company don't have any intention of bringing democracy to Haiti. They don't really even think that the people of Haiti deserve to live like human beings. The overt racism of the U.S. rulers comes through again and again when they describe the Haitian people as "accustomed" to living under tyrants. When Haitians attempt to get political asylum in this country U.S. officials raise the specter of AIDS. And reporters on Wall Street's payroll refer to Haitians as people "poisoned by a culture of voodoo."

The brutality of the Haitian military is not new and they have always received the support of officials in Washington. Former president Carter is ready to have Gen. Thug Cédras teach at his Sunday school! In the aftermath of the military coup against President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's government in September 1991, Cédras's army swept through working-class neighborhoods quelling demonstrations and killing hundreds. More than 3,000 people have been killed at the hands of the military since then.

Yet, Washington has maintained a consistent closed-door immigration policy for Haitian refugees trying to escape the brutality of the Cédras regime. Tens of thousands of Haitians who have fled by sea in the past three years have been forced back into the arms of the very butchers Clinton hypocritically denounced just one week earlier.

The treatment of Haitian refugees shows that U.S. immigration policy is not only racist but is also used primarily to advance the foreign policy goals of Washington. By keeping Haitians out of the United States Clinton built up the clamor for military action in Haiti. Allowing emigration to the United States or cutting it off is a weapon that Washington uses over working people all over the world.

The military action against Haiti is also deeply connected to the long-term effort of Washington to bring down the socialist revolution in Cuba. At the same time as massive military forces are on the ground in Haiti, Washington has set up a powder keg at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo, Cuba. Some 15,000 Haitian refugees and 28,000 Cubans picked up on the high seas attempting to get into the United States are now being

held in concentration-camp conditions at the base. The inhuman treatment being meted out to the detainees and the almost daily acts of provocation carried out by the U.S. Marines at Guantánamo is threatening an explosion that could be used as a pretext for an armed attack against Cuba. The use of the base as a staging area for the military operation in Haiti is a further affront to the Cuban people and heightens the tensions in the region.

Despite protestations to the contrary, Washington has never been particularly enamored with the prospect of seeing Aristide back in the presidency. Workers and peasants elected Aristide by an overwhelming majority in December 1990 as part of the ongoing popular struggle that forced the ouster of the hated Duvalier dictatorship in 1986. Aristide came to power at the crest of that popular rebellion.

What Washington fears, however, is not Aristide in power, since he has demonstrated ample willingness to work with the masters of the empire. The White House trembles that the return of Aristide will encourage Haitian working people to struggle for their rights. Another rebellion of Haiti's oppressed toilers, who have been beaten down by the Haitian military but whose spirit of resistance has not been crushed, remains imperialism's ultimate concern.

Every move made by Clinton's military commanders in Haiti since the occupation force landed has been aimed at strengthening the military, or at least keeping it intact. Washington's goal is to maintain this repressive apparatus, perhaps in new packaging, in order to hold the struggles of workers and farmers in check. Even if Clinton decides to move against the Haitian military, because their brutality is causing political problems for Washington's military operation, it will be aimed at strengthening the hand of those Clinton believes can best maintain control and do its bidding.

Working people in this country have a high stake in seeing all U.S. troops clear out of Haiti now. The occupation of that country sets a dangerous precedent, one that Washington will surely try to use to further its imperialist interests in other parts of the world. While the just demand of the Haitian people for the return of Aristide to the presidency should be supported, his return on the bayonets of U.S. imperialism will hurt the Haitian toilers in their struggle against dictatorial rule and for democratic space to engage in politics and fight for their rights.

Clinton has no more pure intentions in the Caribbean than he does when dealing with the struggles of workers and farmers in the United States. Only the bosses at Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone, or the Soo Line get help from the White House — their White House — not workers on strike. Why would it be different in Haiti?

Workers, farmers, youth, and all democratic-minded people the world over should join protests demanding:

U.S. troops out of Haiti!
Open the U.S. border to Haitian refugees!
Release all Haitians and Cubans incarcerated at prison camps!
Stop the provocations against Cuba!
U.S. out of Guantánamo!

Stand with framed-up unionists

As Iowa prison authorities attempt to make their latest frame-up of Mark Curtis stick, supporters of the fight for justice of this union and political activist need to step up their defense efforts worldwide.

Curtis began serving his one-month sentence in the "hole" September 16, after the warden's office at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Ft. Madison quickly rejected his appeal of a frame-up charge of assaulting another inmate. The one-month sentence is to be followed by eleven more months in lockup.

The stakes are high in this case. The state authorities in Iowa are determined to break Curtis and turn him away from his uncompromising fight for the rights of working people. Their aim today is the same as when the cops in Des Moines, Iowa, first arrested, beat, and framed Curtis more than six years ago on charges of rape and burglary. Prison officials want to send a message to other workers and young fighters that this is the kind of treatment they will receive if they stand up and fight for justice.

Curtis will pursue further steps within the prison system over the next few weeks to appeal the assault conviction. But what's most important now is for defenders of democratic rights throughout the world to flood the warden's office with additional faxes, letters, and telegrams of protest demanding the phony conviction of Curtis on assault charges be overturned and that the union activist be granted parole now.

Mark Curtis is one of many rebellious workers in the United States and around the world who are sitting behind bars today, victims of the bosses' "justice" system.

In West Virginia, Jerry Lowe, a member of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), was framed and sentenced to 11 years in jail for the killing of nonunion contractor Eddie York. The incident occurred in the midst of the UMWA's seven-month contract strike last year.

In Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, in Canada,

Roger Warren, a member of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers, sits in prison facing nine counts of first degree murder for the deaths of nine replacement workers killed in a September 1992 explosion during a bitter 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines. The union activist remains incarcerated despite the fact that not a shred of concrete evidence has been presented linking him to the explosion.

President Clinton's new crime bill, with its generous allocations of funds for more cops and prisons, signals a further step-up in the capitalist rulers' attacks on democratic rights. As the bosses' war on labor heats up, the ruling class intends to put more workers who stand up and fight for justice behind bars on frame-up charges.

As part of this crackdown on workers, the bosses are making conditions in the prisons even harsher. Many state governments throughout the country are discussing, or have already passed, legislation banning televisions, tennis and basketball courts, and weight rooms for prisoners. The state of Mississippi has gone even further, eliminating radios, record players, and tape or compact disc players. In addition, prisoners will be forced to wear striped uniforms, as in the days of the chain gangs, with the word "convict" emblazoned on their back.

Working people and all fighters for social justice must condemn these barbaric practices and the inhuman conditions many prisoners are forced to live under. Prisoners are human beings who have the rights guaranteed by the constitution. No prison rules or codes of conduct can stand above the Bill of Rights.

Workers and youth need to take to heart the old adage of the labor movement — an injury to one is an injury to all.

End the frame-up of working-class fighters!
Release Mark Curtis, Jerry Lowe, and Roger Warren now!

South Africa

Continued from front page

and services rates, better education, and an end to racist discrimination. Marches, rallies, and road blockades were centered in Eldorado Park, Westbury, Reiger Park, and Coronationville.

Under white minority rule, these townships were reserved for so-called Coloreds. Lying next to the communities are dozens of informal settlements — squatter camps — where tens of thousands make their homes. In spite of the fact that the apartheid government handed out relative privileges to Coloreds and Indians, they remained part of the oppressed Black majority in South Africa. In typical township housing here, one room often houses six people. In this region alone, some 700,000 people are still without water and sanitation services.

The central demand of the demonstrators was for a flat rate of 45 rand [US\$12.60] per month for municipal services and the writing off of back debts. These measures have already been won in the sprawling Black township of Soweto, which lies just down the road.

Unity of oppressed in action

Protesters succeeded, in the face of rubber bullets fired by the police, in erasing government opposition to their demands and unifying with other working people in the area.

ANC member Tokyo Sexwale, who is the premier of the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) province, initially labeled the protests "racist."

"What does he think about us?" asked one Eldorado Park resident. "We are protesting because it's our democratic right just like the people in Soweto did." Another woman remarked, "Supposedly, we are neither here nor there, we are not Black enough and we are not white enough."

In one instance, 400 marched to Soweto to declare their unity with the community there.

At a September 19 meeting of 1,500 in Coronationville, Sexwale announced that service payment debts would be scrapped. The premier said he had ordered police to remove barbed wire surrounding the community, noting that residents had already paid for their houses many times over. "The government of the past tried to use color to divide people. We have won the fight against apartheid and we will continue to fight racism," he said to cheers. Sexwale said he would introduce legislation to establish the flat rate residents demanded.

Meanwhile, protests demanding improved education have shut down schools in Soweto. New strikes by truckers and chemical workers have broken out. Public service workers are threatening a nationwide strike.

On September 21, 2,500 workers at the AECI explosives plant marched to company headquarters to demand revised safety procedures following the death of eight workers in an explosion last week. The workers began a strike September 20.

Two days earlier, some 4,000 cleaning workers had suspended a four-day strike, following an agreement to resume negotiations on workers' demands.

The 1,030 farm workers striking Zebediela Citrus returned to work September 15. The workers downed tools again just two hours later, when police arrested six unionists, including Robert Makhubele, the chairperson of the shop stewards. At the urging of union officials, workers returned to the fields the following day. The six jailed workers, charged with intimidation, remain in prison without possibility of bail. Negotiations on wage and other demands continue.

As the working class fights to win better living and working conditions, improved housing, and land reform, a growing debate is emerging in the government and among those forces which have been part of the revolutionary democratic movement led by the ANC.

'Privileged must tighten belts'

"We have to sincerely consider how especially the more privileged sectors of the population can tighten their belts to ensure that we give the economy the necessary boost for rapid growth and development," Mandela said in a September 14 address to the Senate. "The cabinet should take the lead in this respect. The perception that Cabinet members, in particular, are living well above acceptable standards for public representatives should be eradicated by our own bold actions. We will then be able, justifiably and credibly, to call on others to tighten their belts."

Following Mandela's speech, ANC chief whip Bulelani Ngcuka complained that appointments for governor of the reserve bank, chief of the army, and ambassador to the Hague were given to whites. He charged that Mandela was ignoring his own "constituency."

"It would appear that my own comrades have been caught up in the propaganda by the mass media," Mandela said in response. "But I want to assure you that the [ANC's] Reconstruction and Development Program is there to address the basic needs of the masses of the people in this country."

Pony Express workers strike for union contract

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines

family health insurance, paid holidays, or guaranteed paid vacations," stated Mallette.

Brian Tyler, a 24-year-old worker who is on strike along with his mother, Muriel, another Pony express worker, explained that the company does not even allow drivers to take lunch breaks. "You have to eat while you're on the road with nasty hands, while

health and welfare benefits for these seasonal workers' families. Workers would be forced to buy the company's health insurance policy for their families out of their own pockets, while Gangi pays only for the individual worker's own premium. Gangi also wants to change the contract expiration date from June 30 to October 30, at the end of the tomato season.

"The company provoked this strike," stated Tom Holdaway, a Teamsters Local 748 steward, on the picket line. "They want to break the union." Another picket said he knew something was up when he only got a couple days' work in July.

Provocative mobilizations of as many as 120 cops, from state, county, and nearby city police forces have been assembled at Gangi.

Gangi hoped they could divide the workers by cutting the wages of only the lowest-paid, while leaving intact the wage scales won by the better paid year-round and maintenance workers. But these workers recognized that this fight was theirs as well, and joined the strike. The lowest paid workers, many of whom are immigrants, make up 85 percent of the workforce.

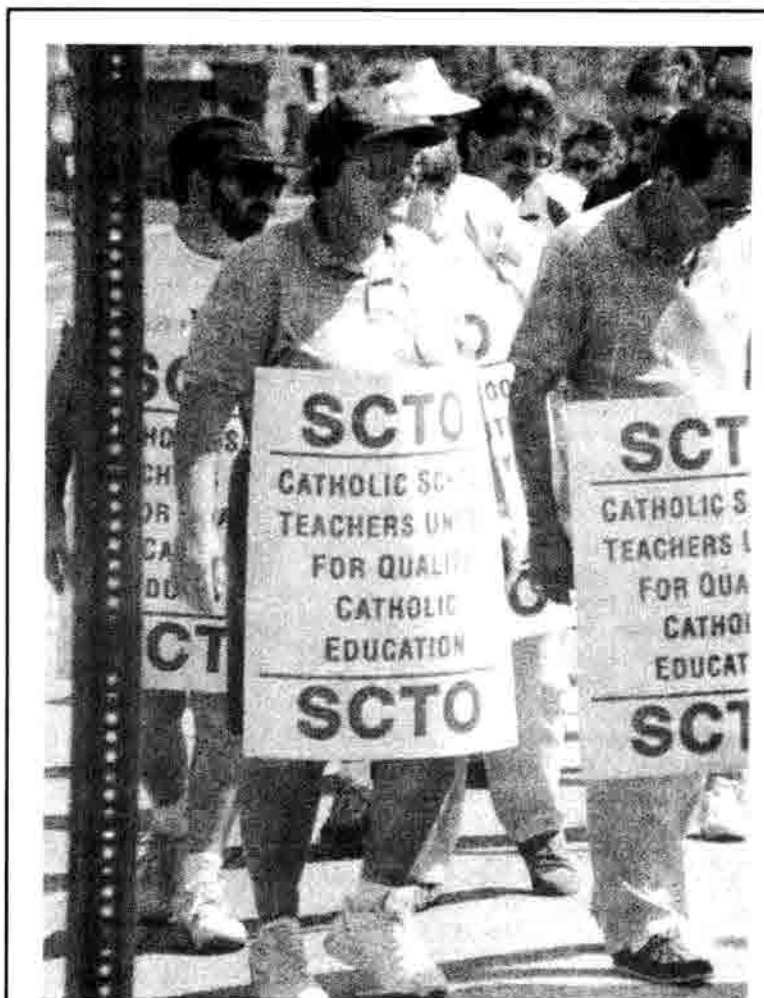
Utah Steelworkers reject Magcorp's contract offer

Members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 8319 rejected by a margin of 70 percent to 30 percent a concession contract offered by Magcorp, the nation's third largest magnesium producer. The four-year proposal provided for just a 7.5 percent pay raise and no action to resolve a backlog of grievances. The company also refused to cap health insurance costs or guarantee continuation of the current attendance policy and work rules.

Leading up to the August 15 vote, workers at the plant, located 60 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah, went on a sticker and armband campaign inside the plant.

Following the contract rejection, Magcorp advertised widely for strike replacements, broadcasting radio ads during Salt Lake City AAA baseball games. Recruits were employed and trained by the Q&D agency in West Valley City, Utah. This strikebreaking company was set up by one of Magcorp's lawyers.

When Steelworkers picketed Q&D training sessions, they were harassed by off-duty West Valley cops, often driving West Valley



Teachers at eight southern New Jersey Catholic high schools struck September 12-18. Walkout was spurred by Bishop James McHugh's demand for absolute authority in dismissing teachers. McHugh subsequently backed down.

squad cars. Steelworkers then picketed West Valley city hall, which refused to call the cops to heel.

When the contract expired August 31, the USWA negotiating committee decided to keep Local 8319 members on the job as a show of good-faith bargaining. The company responded by announcing that employees were no longer protected by the union contract. Union members voted again September 4 and 5, rejecting a similar contract proposal by a margin of 65 percent to 35 percent.

Striking taxi drivers demonstrate in Toronto

More than 300 angry taxi drivers demonstrated at the Ontario provincial legislature on August 30.

Some 1,700 drivers went on strike August 20 against the three largest taxi companies in Toronto — Diamond Taxi, Metro Taxi, and Co-Op Taxi. The workers, who are members of the Retail Wholesale Canadian Service Sector Division of the United Steelworkers of America Local 1688,

are demanding reduced license and lease fees, access to unemployment insurance and workers compensation, and health benefits. Many drivers have to work 60 to 80 hours a week to take home between \$200 and \$300.

"Most cabbies don't work for themselves. They work for a major company, or they buy their cars and lease plates from multimillionaires who hoard these plates," said Shokoohiden Sam, a member of the strike committee. "These people can increase prices and they can revoke the plates at any time they wish. The Metro Licensing Commission, which releases the plates, exploits the situation."

The following contributed to this week's column: Susan LaMont, member of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Local 365 in Austell, Georgia; Pony Express striker Kurtis Gray in Atlanta; Marta de Léon in Tucson; Jim Altemberg, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in San Francisco; David Salner and John Langford, members USWA Local 8319 in Rowley, Utah; and Ali Kermani in Toronto.

ON THE PICKET LINE

about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Some 1,000 Pony Express drivers and warehouse workers walked off the job August 8 to force the company to negotiate a first-time contract.

Workers at Pony Express, a package-delivery company based in Charlotte, North Carolina, voted a year ago to join the Teamsters union. Since then, the company has engaged only in sporadic negotiations, while harassing and firing union activists. When it became clear the company would not budge from its "final offer," workers decided to strike and are now walking picket lines in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Chicago, St. Louis, and several other cities.

The Teamsters have filed 125 unfair labor practice charges against Pony Express with the National Labor Relations Board.

In Atlanta, there are about 25 strikers out on the picket line and 100 workers inside who have crossed the line, according to Teamsters organizer Wayne Vicks. Many strikers are young workers involved in their first walkout. "The young workers are the strongest," stated striker Bill Mallette, who has driven for Pony Express for seven years.

Dozens of unionists, including many from other Teamsters locals, joined the picket lines in the early morning hours of September 14 and 15 to back the Pony Express strikers. The company promptly obtained an injunction September 15 limiting the number of pickets at the plant.

"The company's final offer was only a 50 cent raise over three years" in Atlanta, said Mallette. Pony Express pays only \$4.50 an hour to drivers with their own trucks and \$6.25 an hour for drivers using company trucks. "They don't want to give us decent

you're delivering chemicals and all kinds of things. I'll be out until the [1996] Olympics if I have to!" he said.

Hundreds rally against union-busting in Arizona

A "Stop the Union-Busting" picket and rally of about 250 strikers and supporters was held in Tucson, Arizona, on Labor Day, September 5. Represented there were three unions — Operating Engineers Local 428, Teamsters Local 104, and Laborers Local 479 — on strike against Granite Construction Company.

When the May 31 expiration of union contracts with Granite occurred, the company proposed wage cuts for new hires, the contracting out of work, and reductions in health, welfare, pension, and training benefits.

"We work safely and hard for the company; now look what they are doing to us," said Charlene Selph, a member of the Operating Engineers local who has driven heavy equipment for 17 years at Granite. The workers are sent to sites all over Arizona and New Mexico. "We sometimes drive 140 miles round trip each day, or have to pay rent on two living quarters," she said. Many of the workers are of Mexican descent or are Native-Americans.

Cannery workers in California walk out

Faced with company demands for steep concessions, members of Teamsters Local 748 walked out of the Gangi Bros. tomato cannery in Riverbank, California, on August 23. Gangi is pressing to cut wages of the lowest-paid workers by \$3.00, to \$6.42 per hour, and take back four paid holidays. Many of these workers are employed by Gangi only during the summer and fall months of the tomato season.

The company wants to end

LETTERS

Coworkers discuss Cuba

"The U.S. government, our government, is the cruelest in the world!" a coworker on Amtrak's New York to New Orleans run told our crew. We were discussing the Clinton administration's policy against Haitian and Cuban refugees and other U.S. government provocations against Cuba.

"The CIA is into everything," a train attendant responded. "It's all about the business dollar. I even heard that they're dumping French nuclear waste in Somalia now. Economic blackmail is a tool they use. They even do it here," the attendant continued. "They threaten that if you don't go along with them, they'll terminate your job. People are afraid to speak up because of the repercussions."

"That's precisely why they're after Cuba and the example they set today of standing up to U.S. capitalists regardless of the repercussions," I said.

Discussions like this are not un-



usual at work. After reading headlines in that day's newspaper, a conductor said, "[Fidel] Castro's going to fall now." An Amtrak

chef replied, "No, no he's not. The Cuban people love Castro. Castro is not even close to falling. He is supported by the people because

of what he stands up for all these years. They [U.S. officials] want him to fall."

As a result of these discussions, several coworkers have bought copies of the *Militant* and Pathfinder books to learn more about the Cuban revolution. Others have been interested in the Socialist Workers election campaign. Sue Skinner Greensboro, North Carolina

Eugene V. Debs

In the article "Eugene Debs: two classes are at war" that appeared in the Sept. 5, 1994, issue of the *Militant*, you say Debs "campaigns until his death in 1926 for the overthrow of capitalism."

Debs supported and endorsed Senator La Follette's candidacy for president in 1924 in the campaign then of the Progressive Party, a third capitalist party.

Of course the major lesson from Debs' experience was that if you are not able to understand the limi-

tations and danger of an all-inclusive party as compared to a Leninist party, the "all-inclusive" party will be dominated by the right wing even to the point where a minority (the right-wing dominated NEC) expelled the majority, Debs' revolutionary spirit and efforts notwithstanding.

Paul Montauk Oakland, California

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

The *Militant* prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Labor battles spread in S. Africa

BY JAMES HARRIS
AND GREG ROSENBERG

CARLTONVILLE, South Africa — Some 5,000 mine workers marched and toyi-toyed five miles through Gold Fields of South Africa's vast Kloof mining complex here on September 14. Members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) demanded the return of their branch chair, Jackson Mafika, who was fired by the company several months ago. Mafika is now barred from the mine for his union activities.

The miners are among tens of thousands of workers in South Africa who are fighting to bust up apartheid's devastating legacy of low pay, discrimination, and lack of education. The employing class, on the other hand, while cheering the "new South Africa," is determined to continue raking in profits by doing business the old way.

But the NUM and other labor struggles unfolding today show that working people are determined in their efforts to win immediate justice and improve their working and living conditions.

More than 16,000 miners work and live at the Kloof mine. Most Black miners live on company property in hostels — barracks-like accommodations that force 16 men per unit together like matchsticks.

'End the hostel system'

Black miners are not paid enough to live off company property. The miners are demanding the abolition of forced housing in the crowded compounds and enough pay to live off the property with their families.

At the end of the march the miners held a rally where a union spokesperson read a list of demands to a representative from management. The rally was translated into several African languages and English. A representative of the United Mine Workers Union of South Africa (UMWUSA), which attempts to organize mostly Zulu-speaking miners, also addressed the crowd.

Philip Nongalo, a miner and NUM branch officer from the neighboring mine at Libanon, said that the participation of the UMWUSA, which has been aligned with the Inkatha Freedom Party, was important. "The white guys here are trying to divide us. This is the first time Zulus are marching with us. They are usually the men of the bosses," he said.

"We have struggled and won political freedom, the right to vote, and the right to freedom of speech," an NUM representative told miners. "Now is the time for the gold fields to be free of racism and discrimination. It is our right to be treated as human beings and not costs of production."

"We as workers must not sleep and expect someone to help us," said Nongalo. "We must continue to fight."

The employers, however, are using rough methods in the face of workers' na-



Militant/Greg Rosenberg
Gold miners from the Kloof mining complex near Carltonville, South Africa, rally September 14 to demand return of union leader fired by the company.

tionwide determination to implement immediate changes.

Striking workers at the King Edward VIII Hospital (KEH) won a victory September 20 when hospital management ended a lockout and announced that no workers would be dismissed.

Durban nurses wage fight at hospital

The management at KEH in Durban locked out some 4,000 nurses and other employees on September 16. The directors of the public hospital, the second largest in South Africa, made their move only one day after announcing the mass firing of 2,000 nurses. In doing so, they virtually eliminated the ability of thousands of working people — overwhelmingly Blacks — to receive medical treatment.

Twelve days earlier the hospital work-

ers, most of whom are members of the National Education, Health, and Allied Workers Union (NEHAWU), had been on strike against KEH.

The workers had tried to return to work on August 5, as ordered by a judge, with the promise that their grievances would be worked out in negotiations.

Subsequently, hospital management refused to recognize the committee elected by workers for negotiations. The bosses named a negotiating group drawn from the staff associations set up under apartheid.

Workers rallied on September 16 and heard a report from union officials on steps to end the lockout. Nothuthando Libiya, representing nurses at Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, told workers, "If they terminate you, we are not going back to work."

"There are patients locked in intensive

care with only a few doctors to care for them," said J.V. Gumede. "They tried to divide the workers, and now they are going to kill the patients."

Workers at the hospital were attempting to win a list of 28 grievances. Eighty percent of the staff is Black. Top management is totally white. Grievances centered around racism and discrimination on the part of hospital directors, promotions, working conditions, inadequate service to patients, inadequate facilities, and corruption.

Chemical workers throw out boss

When workers at the Dulux paint plant in Johannesburg felt that management was treating them in an insulting and abusive manner, they physically picked the bosses up and carried them out of the plant.

"We tossed them somewhere in the woods," chuckled Samson Ndhlovu, who is a shop steward for the South African Chemical Workers Union at the plant in Alrode. Of the six Dulux plants in the Johannesburg area, five have been on strike since August 16.

Ndhlovu said that on July 29, management laid off 16 people who were categorized as temporary workers in what they said was a cost-cutting move. Union officials agreed to the layoffs, with the stipulation that they get the names and phone numbers of those who were let go so that they could be recalled when work picked up. Ndhlovu said management agreed to the union proposal.

"But then after a week we started seeing new faces," said Ndhlovu. "We asked management what happened to the old people. They wouldn't talk to us about it. And then we saw that our supervisor had hired his son and son-in-law and brother. This made people very angry."

Ndhlovu said that when workers confronted the supervisor about this blatant nepotism he was very condescending. He told union members it didn't matter what they thought, because management trusted him and would side with him. The workers had enough. They picked the supervisor up and carried him out of the plant.

S. Africa Caterpillar workers offer solidarity

BY JAMES HARRIS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — "I wish to say to the United Auto Workers that Caterpillar's African workers are aware of the impact the strike is having on Caterpillar and we say forward with the struggle. Solidarity Forever," said Lena Ntuli, a shop steward for the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA), at the Caterpillar facility here.

Driving from Jan Smuts airport into Johannesburg, one of the first things you see are signs announcing the presence of the giant earth-moving equipment manufacturer. A Caterpillar dealership and a distribution center are located in Kempton Park, a huge industrial area beside the airport.

Workers at the distribution center in South Africa held solidarity actions with members of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) in the United States during their 1992 strike against Caterpillar, Inc.

On September 14, I spoke with several members of the shop stewards committee at the Kempton Park facility in the plant cafeteria. We discussed the effects of the current strike in the United States on their operations, the conditions that they work under, and the importance of solidarity with the UAW.

I told the group that Caterpillar is claiming that the U.S. strike is having little to no effect on production rates and that the company was meeting all of its deadlines. "Based on your experience, does this appear to be true," I asked.

Sam Kgoetego, who works in quality control, smiled as I told him about Cater-

pillar's claims.

"We get the same from the E-mail every day," said Kgoetego. "But we know the strike is having an effect because for the past few months we have been receiving defective parts — wrong parts. The label is right on the outside but inside the parts are wrong."

Orders from Belgium, not Illinois

"I think it's having an effect," said Rogers Bikani. "Back orders are arriving late and instead of coming from Morton [Illinois] they are coming from the Grinberger plant in Belgium. It's having an effect because of the delays. That's proof."

Ezekiel Motshawane asked if workers were all going back to work, as the company has reported to them.

When I reported that they were not, Motshawane nodded his head. "We don't get all the truth here," he said. "Everything that is in favor of them [Caterpillar] they put on the notice board. Nothing else. We know that management is worried because they think the UAW is planning to disrupt supplies, he added, noting that the bosses frequently met with the shop stewards at the distribution center to ask them to be on the lookout for such disruption.

Motshawane also said that the company repeatedly told the South African workers that it was willing to negotiate with the UAW but that the union has refused.

Ntuli, who had attended the demonstration and rally held in Peoria, Illinois, July 7, explained that this was not true.

"When we marched to their offices in

Peoria," he said, "it's the company that was not prepared to negotiate. They closed the door on [UAW Secretary-Treasurer] Bill Casstevens." Casstevens was carrying a letter that offered to negotiate with Caterpillar.

In response to my question about conditions in the South African Caterpillar plant, the workers reported that they make on average 500 rand a week (US\$140) when they work a 40-hour week. This is relatively good pay for South Africans who are not white. Those who are white average a great deal more because of the legacy of the apartheid system, which paid people according to their race.

I asked if things had changed much at the plant since the first free and democratic elections in April.

"No change yet," said Ntuli. "We are trying now to negotiate affirmative action with the company."

Workers at the Kempton Park facility, like many others in factories across South Africa, believe that with apartheid now laid to rest it is time to press forward with demands for affirmative action, education, and training.

"The only whites that work in our plant are in management," said Ntuli. "A lot of people with good work experience are not considered" for promotion, he said referring to Black workers.

Before we left, the discussion returned to the Caterpillar strike in the United States. "Our message to them is not to forget us and we will stand by their side," said Kgoetego.

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